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Car bomb kills successor to anti-Mafia judge



Borsellino: feared his days were numbered

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

PAOLO Borsellino, Italy's top anti-Mafia judge, was killed in a powerful car bomb attack yesterday less than two months after the murder of his predecessor, Judge Giovanni Falcone. Six of his bodyguards were also killed.

Dozens of people were injured in the blast and cars were wrecked by the explosion that ripped up 200 yards of a street in a modern suburb of Palermo, the Sicilian capital. The car bomb, planted in a small Fiat 600, damaged houses up to 50 yards away up to fifth floor level.

Signor Borsellino was the deputy

public prosecutor in Palermo and was widely tipped as a candidate to take up a new co-ordinating role as a Mafia prosecutor for the whole of Italy. Police said he had apparently left his car and was walking through a passageway on his way to his mother's home. His car and two police escort cars were damaged.

Hundreds of people gathered at the scene in the Via Mariano D'Amelio where both the judge and his mother have their homes. Fragments of human remains were scattered over a wide area. Most of the six other people killed were believed to be members of his police escort.

Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister, said Signor Borsellino had believed he was running out of time. "He feared that the decree strengthening co-operation between the police and the judiciary and lengthening the time allowed for investigation of the Mafia could not be approved in time by parliament," he said.

"I say to these assassins and to those at war with the state that these measures will remain. These terrible deaths fill us with grief but strengthen our determination. I am convinced that the government, the parliament and the judiciary will know how to reply with the required strength and unity."

Signor Borsellino was a close friend and colleague of Judge Falcone who was killed on May 23 on the motorway between Palermo and the city's main airport, together with his wife and three members of his police escort.

Yesterday's murder was the latest of many. In September 1982, the Mafia ambushed General Carlo Alberto Della Chiesa, the leader of Italy's anti-mob drive, shot along with his young wife in the centre of Palermo. On March 12 of this year, Salvo Lima, head of Sicily's Christian Democrat party and a European parliamentarian, was shot dead in a western suburb of Palermo.

The latest Mafia outrage shocked Sicilian politicians. Aldo Rizzo, the mayor of Palermo, said: "We are in a state of war. It is a war with no holds barred and we must prepare to resist. We must have no illusions that this is the end."

Although hundreds of suspected Mafia were rounded up and jailed in the aftermath of the assassination of Judge Falcone there has been persistent speculation that more Mafia assassinations were being planned. Leoluca Orlando, the leader of La Rete (The Network), a newly-formed anti-Mafia party, recently received a number of death threats and cancelled all his public engagements for his own protection. Party members mounted special guards outside his home in Palermo to supplement police.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

ROLL OF HONOUR



The Times is the only newspaper to provide a comprehensive degree results service. It starts today with graduates from Warwick and Dundee. Life & Times page 8

SIGN OF MADNESS



Is there a connection between plastic bags and mental illness, asks Matthew Parris, who cannot bear to throw them away. page 12

WIND OF CHANGE



Publishers and booksellers blame each other as the age of the video takes its toll. Life & Times page 1

Tories risking social unrest warns Smith

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

JOHN Smith yesterday ordered an all-out assault on the government's handling of the economy after his landslide victory in the leadership contest.

With the government facing another week of grim economic news, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, two of Mr Smith's chief lieutenants, gave warnings that Britain's social cohesion was at risk unless ministers changed their economic and industrial policies to tackle the recession.

Buoyed by the election, which handed Mr Smith the strongest mandate in Labour history, the two leading figures in the party's younger generation tried to draw a contrast between Labour's new unity and what they called a "hesitant and divided" Tory party.

Mr Smith's offensive comes amid fears that millions of homeowners may soon face higher mortgage payments. There are also further indications that the economy may be slowing again, and the cabinet is preparing to order the toughest squeeze on public spending for a decade.

The Conservatives followed the Labour leadership election with their own attack on Mr Smith. They denounced him as a "fudger" and said that his tactical miscalculations over taxation had wrecked Labour's chances at the general election.

The attack came in a book, *The Economics of John Smith*, by Michael Forth, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Forth said that Mr Smith's election performance had cast a shadow over his achievements during previ-

ON OTHER PAGES

Within the space of 48 hours, new leaders have been chosen for the main left of centre party. While the sobriety of the Royal Horticultural Hall contrasted sharply with the excitement of Madison Square Garden, the challenges faced by John Smith and Bill Clinton bear striking similarities. Peter Riddell examines a tale of two oppositions. Page 12

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said: "The small boost to High Street sales in the two months following the general election now seems to have fizzled out."

The CBI figures provide the first clue as to how retailers fared in June. Official government figures out on Wednesday are expected to show that growth in June and stagnant or falling activity over the latest three months.

Figures out from the building societies this week are expected to show a net outflow of funds. The Cheltenham & Gloucester has raised its savings rates to compete with National Savings but the cost has been to push up mortgage rates at the same time.

Higher mortgages and the re-imposition of stamp duty at the start of August will hit the fragile housing market, which has been showing tentative signs of recovery. Economists believe that the housing market is a key ingredient in economic recovery, and without a strong market consumer confidence is likely to remain low.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is preparing to warn the cabinet on Wednesday that the continuing recession underlines the need for a clampdown on public spending. The prime minister has told friends of the "critical" need to trim back the bids for extra spending, totalling some £14 billion.

It is expected that Downing Street statement after Wednesday's meeting will underline the government's determination to take a more rigorous approach this year than during the past few years, when the aim at the



Winning moment: Nick Faldo savours his third Open championship victory

Exhausted Faldo triumphs

By John Hennessy

THE pride of Welwyn Garden City, Nick Faldo came back from the dead to win his third Open golf championship in a gripping finish at Muirfield yesterday. He beat John Cook, of the United States, by one hole with a total 272, 12 under par.

Just as it seemed that Faldo had squandered the four-stroke lead with which he began the round he dug into his reserves of courage and turned the tables on the American at the last hole.

Faldo was so drained, physically and emotionally, that there was no exultation when the final putt went in. "What a wreck," he said afterwards. "My legs had gone." This might also apply to his well-wishers. They, too, had been through the wringer.

The ceasefire negotiated by Lord Carrington, the EC peace envoy, began at 6pm local time. About 380,000 residents in Sarajevo, besieged by Serb forces for the past three months, waited with a mixture of scepticism and hope to see whether the latest truce would hold. About an hour later, mortar and heavy machinegun fire broke out in the capital. There had been sporadic shooting around Sarajevo right up to the ceasefire deadline.

In Albania yesterday, Douglas Hurd said the ceasefire was a pre-condition of political talks, although he added: "I do not expect the guns to fall silent today." He said the UN must now monitor the withdrawal of heavy artillery in Bosnia.

Mr Hurd, the first British minister to visit Albania, had earlier warned Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader in Belgrade, to respect the ceasefire or face tighter political and economic sanctions.

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Panic offers talks as ceasefire snaps

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND MICHAEL BINYON IN TIRANA

MILAN Panic, Yugoslavia's new prime minister, offered last night to start immediate talks with Bosnian leaders to end "this stupid, unbelievable, unconscionable war".

The proposal came as the two-week ceasefire, agreed last week in London between the leaders of the rival factions, came into effect in Bosnia-Herzegovina and was almost immediately broken.

After three hours of talks in Sarajevo with Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian president, Mr Panic, a Serbian-born American businessman, said he had given him "a very short time to reply" to his peace talks offer. If he did not agree, he said, the world would know which side wanted to continue the war.

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Baker praises Israeli initiative

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, yesterday returned to Israel determined to breathe new life into his year-long search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East's main conflict.

Arriving in Jerusalem at the start of his tour of Middle Eastern states, the architect of the current peace process went straight into talks with Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's newly elected prime minister whose Labour-led government could hold the key to the success of his initiative.

The two men would not discuss details of their nearly two hours of face-to-face talks, but hinted afterwards

that they centred on the new Israeli government's increasing flexibility on Jewish settlements in the occupied territories and the related issue of Israel's request for \$10 billion (\$5.1 billion) in American loan guarantees.

"I am very interested in hastening the peace process," Mr Rabin said before Mr Baker's arrival. "I very much hope that a different atmosphere will be created between us and the United States which will help in making peace and in improving relations." His message has raised expectations in the region that for the first time since the Camp David accords were signed between Israel and Egypt more than a decade ago a compromise solution may be in sight to the 44-year Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Before his first round of discussions, Mr Baker also sounded an optimistic note, praising the week-old Israeli government for creating "some new possibilities" in the region. His remarks appeared to be a reference to the new left-wing coalition's unilateral moves to curb expansion in the occupied territories of Jewish settlements.

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Card-carrying society switches from cheques

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

THE cheque book in your back pocket could soon become an item of historic memorabilia. New banking statistics show that shoppers are switching to debit cards to buy the groceries and for the first time since the second world war, the number of cheques being written is declining. The Association for Payment Clearing Services, the organisation that processes bank payments, says that 110 million fewer were passed last year.

Cheques are being replaced by Switch and Visa debit cards, which have grown at a phenomenal rate since they were introduced in the late eighties. Half of all adults now carry a debit card and the number of transactions with such cards grew by 88 per cent to 360 million last year. A year ago 125,000 stores accepted them. Today, 185,000 do so. The association forecasts that the volume of debit-card purchases will continue to rise for the rest of the decade and overtake cheques by 1996.

Debit cards will surpass credit cards in popularity even sooner. The number of credit-card transactions failed to grow for the first time in their history last year sticking at 700 million, as the recession bit deep into cardholders' spending power. The association estimates that they will begin to grow again this year, but that debit cards will overtake them within 18 months.

The change is welcome news for the banks, since cheques are difficult and time-consuming to process. But diehard cheque writers should not mourn the end of their favourite pastime just yet. The banks still handle ten million

cheques a day, although the association believes the number will fall to fewer than 4 million by the turn of the century.

While cards and cheques jockey for position in the nation's wallets and purses, cash is still king and likely to remain so, there were 17.3 billion cash transactions worth more than a pound in Britain last year, 65 per cent of the total.

The sources of all this cash are changing, however. Until the early eighties, most consumers withdrew their weekly wage by cashing a cheque at their local bank branch. This practice is now in steep decline thanks to the success of cash dispensers, which last year were used almost 1.5 billion times. Almost two-thirds of bank customers now withdraw their cash from automatic machines. Britain has 18,000 machines, more than anywhere else in Europe.

Our transactions lack a certain bounce, lately

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MI6 chief could be called to account by select committee



Howell: interested in MI6 budget and policy

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SIR Colin McColl, chief of the secret intelligence service, could join his counterpart in MI5 in appearing before a Commons select committee after new legislation is brought in, placing MI6 on a statutory footing later this year.

Sir Colin has been asked by the prime minister to stay on as MI6 chief for another two years. He had been due to retire at the age of 60 in October and several people had been named as possible successors, including two

women. However, John Major wants him to remain in his post to implement the legislation planned for MI6 and to carry through a restructuring of the intelligence service after the end of the Cold war. Some of the MI6 officers posted in East European countries are expected to be reassigned to counter-terrorism operations.

The extra two years will coincide with an unprecedented demand for more openness from the intelligence and security services. Stella Rimington, the director-general of MI5, has al-

ready been invited by the Commons home affairs select committee to give evidence about the work of the service.

Mrs Rimington is expected to see Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, to discuss the possibility of taking on a more public role. She is thought to be in favour of coming out into the open and has already released two statements since her appointment in February.

Yesterday, David Howell, who last week was re-elected as chairman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee, said it was possible the

members of the committee would be interested in inviting Sir Colin to give evidence on MI6's budget and policy.

The MI6 London-based staff are soon to move from their headquarters at Century House off Lambeth Road into their new premises at Vauxhall Cross, at the south end of Vauxhall Bridge. The new building has cost £150 million, although the final bill will be considerably higher because of the special equipment to be installed.

Mr Howell said the foreign affairs committee would be ready to play its part if there was a move to make available

to MPs the heads of the security and intelligence services. However, he said his time as a minister (transport and energy departments) had "immolated" him into believing that there were very few secrets. Most intelligence information "stared you in the eye", he said.

The government is reported to be planning to introduce a limited form of parliamentary scrutiny of MI5 and MI6 when the legislation is completed to put the secret intelligence service on the statute book. A cabinet sub-committee has been set up to look at the options.

Thatcher role in tobacco industry causes dismay

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

POLITICIANS and leading figures in health organisations expressed dismay yesterday that Lady Thatcher was considering acting as an international consultant for Philip Morris, the world's biggest tobacco company.

A spokeswoman for the former prime minister confirmed that discussions were going on but described as "incredible and unutterable rubbish" reports that a \$1 million (£550,000) a year deal was contemplated.

Harriet Harman, shadow health minister, said: "I am absolutely appalled. I challenge Margaret Thatcher to withdraw from this deal without any further ado. She is tarnishing the office of prime minister, which she once held, by accepting money from the tobacco industry to recruit her fellow citizens into this killing habit."

Roger Sims, Conservative MP and member of the Commons health select committee, said: "I am quite astonished that of all the possibilities open to her she should have taken this one. She must know the facts of the harm smoking does and the deaths it causes. It is common knowledge that because of reducing consumption in Europe the tobacco companies are seeking to expand their markets in the Third World. It is quite extraordinary and verging on the irresponsible for a politician of her status even to be associated with this let alone to be taking money for it."

Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick, president of the Royal College of Physicians, which has produced the most influential reports on the link between smoking and ill health over the past 30

years, said: "It is very important that the right messages are going out from leading politicians that cigarette smoking is a most damaging thing."

Dr Douglas Chamberlain, president of the British Cardiac Society, made a similar plea. "Smoking is by far the most important preventable cause of premature death in the United Kingdom and is increasingly a scourge in many Third World countries," he said.

Sir Donald Maitland, chairman of the Health Education Authority, said Lady Thatcher's influence was likely to be limited. "I don't believe that any link between her and Philip Morris will have an impact on the commitment of the government to reduce the prevalence of smoking as clearly set out in the Health of the Nation white paper," he said.

Experts expect Lady Thatcher's advice to be sought on the penetration of tobacco markets in eastern Europe and the Third World, and on the resistance of attempts to ban advertising in the European Community.

Philip Morris is one of the world's largest tobacco and food companies, making profits of more than \$4 billion. The group owns some of the best-known brands including Marlboro cigarettes, Miller beer, Dairyale cheese and Suchard chocolate.

In the past ten years, Morris has expanded into the food industry. In 1985, it bought General Foods, maker of Maxwell House coffee, and in 1988 the company bid \$13 billion for Kraft, one of the largest acquisitions ever.

Leading article, page 13



Over and out: a demonstrator is escorted off the pitch at Lord's yesterday. Play between the MCC and Transvaal, the first visiting South African team since 1965, was halted when seven infiltrators burst onto the field. One managed to break the wicket before he was caught by policemen. Report, page 26

Outsiders added to Bristol violence

By NICHOLAS WATT

OUTSIDERS infiltrated the riots on the Hartcliffe estate in Bristol on Saturday night after local people lost interest, police figures showed yesterday. Only three out of a total of 21 people arrested during disturbances on Saturday night were from the estate. But two thirds of the 42 people arrested on the two previous nights were from Hartcliffe.

PC Ian Gibson, spokesman for Avon and Somerset police, said: "Most of Saturday night's troublemakers came from within a radius of half a mile of the estate, although one came from Nailsea which is outside Bristol. They were not Hartcliffe

people because Hartcliffe is a proud community."

David Shattock, chief constable, said yesterday: "I feel desperately sorry for the people there. So many outsiders are orchestrating this. They were there for one purpose only — to cause trouble. The community must rebuild. Most people are shocked to the roots."

A police helicopter lit up parts of the estate on Saturday night as two cars were set on fire and police in riot gear confronted stone-throwing youths. Five people were arrested for allegedly carrying offensive weapons.

But the violence was less than on Friday night, when 15 policemen were injured, with one beaten unconscious. In the early hours of Saturday, extra police were bused in from four neighbouring forces. Up to 500 officers were available.

Hartcliffe's two community policemen returned to their beat yesterday for the first time since violence broke out on Thursday. PC Gibson said: "They have been listening to people's gripes, moans and praise. It is a two-way exchange of views. Many of the community officers are devastated."

The Rev Jeff Francis, vicar of St Andrew's on the estate, urged Bristol not to forget Hartcliffe. "There is talk of further cutbacks in spending next year. I don't see how that can be allowed to happen. People on the estate feel let down. The words trust and hope have taken a battering in the last few years. Unemployment, which has risen sharply in the last year, contributed to the riots."

Paul Smith, who represents the estate on Bristol city council, said: "Hopefully our community can now rally around and repair the damage that has been done."

Violence first flared on Thursday after two local men, who were riding a stolen police motor cycle, were killed in a head-on crash with an unmarked regional crime squad car. Two detectives, said by police to be "deeply upset" by the accident, have been suspended from duty while the Police Complaints Authority carries out an enquiry. Yesterday fresh flowers and cards were taken to the spot in Hawkfield Road where Keith Buck, 18, and Shaun Starr, 32, died.

More than 500 revellers took part in an attack on a group of police who were monitoring crowds leaving a nightclub in Bournemouth, Dorset, early yesterday.

A small group of officers was set upon by members of the crowd, which was cleared when reinforcements arrived. Ten people were charged with violent disorder, assaulting police causing actual bodily harm and damage to police vehicles. They were due to appear before magistrates this morning. Another four were charged with obstructing police officers and other public order offences.

Four youths were arrested and charged with public order offences after a fight broke out at a night club in Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, in the early hours of yesterday.

Clogs earn a new role as economic barometer

By JOHN YOUNG

SOUTHERNERS who suppose that the humble clog is a long forgotten relic of Britain's industrial past will be surprised to learn that it is nothing of the sort. On the contrary, it could be a happy portent of the nation's industrial future.

Walcley Clogs, of Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, produce 20,000 pairs of wooden and leather clogs a year, of which most are used by workers in primary industries such as steel, chemicals and energy production to provide protection against heat and corrosion. Demand is buoyant and rising.

Judith Lord, the firm's production director, said yesterday: "When I took over earlier this year, I knew there would be a continuing demand for special edition and fashion classics for the youth market and leisure wear."

"What I did not expect in the middle of a recession was to have industry knocking at our door. In fact there has been something of a boom in industrial demand. The clog has been around for centuries but it remains a fascinating barometer of the economic climate."

Walcley's was founded in 1870 and attracts 300,000 visitors a year. Demand is catching — in the past few weeks more than 300 extra pairs have been ordered by agents in the South of England.

Mr Madden added: "The last two years have brought a revolution in motor industry sales but probably not one that anyone has liked. The industry has suffered a huge setback economically while the difficulties have also meant that the aspirations of environmentalists will undoubtedly be held back."

tough economic background, both private buyers and business customers were forced to keep their cars longer. The average length of ownership of a car run by company fleets went up from 2.16 years in 1989 to 2.83 in 1991, while private owners kept their cars on average for 4.27 years instead of the 3.7 recorded in 1989. Overall, ownership of cars of all types and ages has risen steadily from 3.5 years to 4.11 years.

Mr Madden added: "The last two years have brought a revolution in motor industry sales but probably not one that anyone has liked. The industry has suffered a huge setback economically while the difficulties have also meant that the aspirations of environmentalists will undoubtedly be held back."

Protesters disrupt Telethon show

More than a hundred demonstrators protested outside the studios where ITV's Telethon '92 was being broadcast at the weekend as the marathon fund-raising programme tried to raise £24 million for charity. They said it portrayed disabled people as "pitiable victims". Two women were seen by millions of viewers running towards Michael Aspel, the host, on the set at London Weekend Studios shooting, "Rights, not charity".

Organisers of the "ultimate in public begging", Mr Higgins, a spokesman, said: "We're fed up with the way charities are leading people with a responsibility to help the disabled off the hook. These events trivialise the whole business of disabled people's rights. We don't want to be seen as sad, pathetic victims." Organisers said the target sum for 28 hours of continuous television fund-raising might not be achieved but they were confident of raising £20 million.

Colin North, 36, died in front of his wife and three children after helping to pull a truck a quarter of a mile in Andover, Hampshire, as part of the fund-raising.

Body found in field

Police began a murder hunt yesterday after the body of a naked woman was found in a field. Police named the victim as Caroline Challenger, of Bawtry, South Yorkshire, who was in her late forties and divorced. The body was found by a man tending horses in a field next to Bawtry Cricket Club. A police spokesman said a post-mortem examination was being carried out and forensic experts were searching the field.

Home-buyer rapist

People selling their homes have been warned by police to be on their guard for a rapist posing as a house buyer. The man has attacked two women in northwest London after picking his way into houses displaying sale boards. In Chingford, he discussed house prices with his victim before raping her. On Saturday he fled from a house in Waltham Abbey when the victim's daughter managed to raise the alarm. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "People should be aware of these incidents and not allow strangers into their homes without a prior appointment." The man is said to be of Mediterranean appearance, in his late thirties to early forties, clean shaven and about 5ft 5in tall. He was smartly dressed in a suit, had dark collar-length hair flecked with grey and was well-spoken with a husky voice.

Fears for missing girl

Police are concerned about a schoolgirl missing for more than a week. Basra Yusuf Qabli, 15, left her home in Goodmayes, Ilford, northeast London, at 8.30am on July 10 and has not been seen since, says Scotland Yard. Basra, a pupil at Mayfield School, Ilford, was doing work experience at a supermarket. A police spokesman said: "We are increasingly concerned for her safety. It has been more than a week now." The girl was of Somali origin and has been in this country for two years. "She speaks good English. She is known to have many friends or know many people and she has not gone missing before." The girl was described as black, 5ft 3in tall, with short black hair. She wore a blue and white striped shirt and brown trousers.

Villagers flee fires

Two hundred villagers, including handicapped people from a residential home, were evacuated from their homes and took shelter in a school for two hours yesterday as seven fire crews tackled three blazing cottages at Lawford, near Macclesfield. Essex police said that the fire started in one field, quickly spread to two others and was spreading towards houses. At one stage several roads were closed before the fire was brought under control. One fireman needed hospital treatment after being hit by a falling chimney. Police said the cause of the fire was unknown.

Cartoon tackles drugs

An unlikely cartoon figure from northwest England by the name of Pessum Pete is launched on an unsuspecting London today as part of an initiative to reach hundreds of thousands of new drug users. Pete, who has a girl friend Lisa, is white, aged somewhere between 15 and 25, is a regular at nightclubs and raves and, unlike many of the drug users of the sixties, is working class. In spite of his habit of use of amphetamines and Ecstasy at weekends, he sees himself neither as a social deviant nor as someone with a drugs problem. He is the central character in a series of comic strips developed by Lifeline, a Manchester-based drug agency, which identified a large group of recreational drug users and potential users who were being bypassed by services struggling to cope with dependents. Pete is based on a client who used the agency and is the central figure in strips, which provide advice on drug laws, Ecstasy and related health hazards. Mike Lissell, information officer, said: "The use of cartoons in drug health education used to be very noble and well meaning. It had little relationship with what was happening on the streets."



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Pair feared drowned

Hopes faded yesterday for a father and son feared drowned in a holiday swimming accident. Martin Henley, 45, dived into the surf when he saw his two teenage sons struggling in strong tides at St David's, Dyfed, on Friday afternoon. He and Benjamin, 18, were swept away by the powerful currents. His other son, Robert, 14, managed to swim ashore and watched helplessly as they vanished beneath the waves. A search by helicopters and lifeboats, and police with tracker dogs along the shore, had failed to find them by yesterday evening and a concerned spokesman said: "It would be a miracle if they were found alive. No one could survive for more than eight hours in the water because of the sea-chill temperatures." The family, from Noston, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was on a week's holiday.

Man dies in M6 crash

One man was killed and two others seriously injured on the M6 south of Lancaster yesterday, after a car overturned on the wrong way down the fast lane of the motorway. Five vehicles were involved in the accident near the Porton service area. Five officers had to cut the injured free from their cars. The motorway was blocked for three hours, and a 13-mile tailback built up, delaying many families on their way to holidays in the Lake District and Scotland. The dead and injured have not yet been named by police.

Riot bullet redesigned

The plastic bullets used by soldiers in Northern Ireland in anti-riot operations are to be changed after a number of incidents in which soldiers were injured when the bullets jammed in the firing pistol. Seven soldiers have suffered minor injuries in the past four years in 22 cases of breach of the decision to improve the design of the plastic bullet was made after it was discovered that it could expand in warm weather, causing an explosion in the barrels of the gun. A recommendation that the standard rounds be stored in a cool place before firing proved impractical. The redesign follows tests at the Porton Down research establishment in Wiltshire. The new compound does not expand.

Maastricht rethink is urged

A GROUP of nine leading businessmen has called for a rethink of the Maastricht treaty to reverse the growth of central spending and bureaucratic intervention in the European Community.

In a letter to *The Times* today, they urge the government to pursue free market principles and argue that the North American free trade area has been created without the prospect of a single currency and that Far East countries have prospered without collective political bargaining. "Thus many of the economic tenets of Brussels fail to pass scrutiny."

The signatories include the chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes, the chairman of Storehouse and Next retail chains, heads of prominent City investment and trading houses, and the chief executive of Trafalgar House.

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Dead woman's parents still out of contact

FIVE days after the murder of Rachel Nickell, police in North America were last night still trying to contact her parents, who are on a touring holiday and unaware of her fate.

Police in Canandaigua, New York State, have said that parts of the area in which Andrew and Monica Nickell, from Bedfordshire, are holidaying are so remote that the couple could spend days cut off from the outside world. Captain James Hoffman said patrols had been watching for the couple's car and checking hotels and motels. Local radio stations had also been broadcast appeals.

"We probably have 25 to 30 officers on duty today and all are engaged in the search

to a greater or lesser extent," he said. Detectives investigating Rachel's murder have issued a description of a man seen washing his hands in a stream on the morning her body was found at Wimbledon Common, southwest London.

Scotland Yard says the man, in his twenties, with short, tidy, brownish hair and wearing a light-coloured sweater and jeans, was seen by at least three people.

Nicholas Alan Curtis, 30, of Roehampton, southwest London, who was questioned for two days by police after Rachel's murder, has been remanded in custody until August 7 after appearing in court on five charges unrelated to the murder.

Market falls by £5bn as drivers keep old cars

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

A £4.8 billion fall in the value of Britain's car market has shattered hopes of an environmental revolution on the roads.

Motorists worried by the recession are hanging on to old cars, many using technology dating back to the 1970s, while only one driver in five looks for features which benefit the environment, according to a report to be published this week by ADT Auctions, the country's biggest car auction group.

The study is the first to illustrate the depth of the recession's effect on car sales. ADT estimates that the 400,000 fall in new car sales in 1991 cost the industry £2 billion. In addition, the value

of used car sales fell by £2.8 billion as the sales value of the entire motor sector tumbled from £36.3 billion in 1990 to £33.5 billion last year.

The rapid decline came as buyers switched from new cars to older models. Sales of used models rose from 5.7 million in 1990 to 5.9 million last year, increasing the ratio of used cars on the road to new from 2.8:1 to 3.7:1.

As a result, the overall number of cars on the roads is almost unchanged, ADT says, but the number of outdated models is growing rapidly. Only 14.8 per cent of cars in 1991 were under two years old compared with 22 per cent a year before. More than two thirds were over five years old but more than 36 per cent were more than nine years old, compared with

27.3 per cent a year earlier.

The implications for the environmental movement are clear as new, cleaner cars are not replacing older models. New cars are more likely to use unleaded petrol, be more economical and have catalytic converters, which soak up 90 per cent of toxic engine emissions. They are also likely to be better maintained, according to Tom Madden, ADT's director of customer affairs.

He said yesterday: "Our report will show that buyers have been preoccupied with the recession and little else. It is difficult to expect them to worry about deeper issues of the environment when so many have been keeping their cars so much longer than they would like or when simple value for money has

been the key consideration in difficult circumstances."

When buyers were asked what key features they looked for when purchasing a car, 22 per cent listed environmental factors such as choosing a model which used unleaded petrol or had a catalytic converter. However, 64 per cent opted for economy, 37 per cent for safety and 34 per cent for performance.

The report says that "clearly another year of environmental pressure has had little impact. Young people, perhaps surprisingly, are the least influenced by a car's environmental features, whereas those in the higher social groups are the most concerned, indicating that such concerns are only for those who can afford them."

Against the increasingly

BY LIN JENKINS

Mr Hagerty said he had not paid Antonia de Sancha, the actress, nor had tele-

"If this had been a relationship that Mr Mellor or anybody else in the public eye was

public interest and does not contravene the code," he said. He declined to give details of the methods employed to get

Dangerous liaison: David Mellor and the actress, Antonia de Sancha, with whom he has been romantically linked

BY PETER RIDDELL
POLITICAL EDITOR

To his friends, his at times guileless enthusiasm has been his charm. "David is a bit of a card, but he can do the job," is their view. To

This was in September 1981 after Michael Jopling, the then chief whip, had read *Hansard* reports during the summer recess to see which new MP had been most help-

there were public differences over, for instance, the awarding of independent television

Then, after the election, came the move to set up the new national heritage department from bits of other departments, in face of widespread scepticism in the rest of Whitehall. He still has to establish that it will amount

Mr Mellor has survived so far because of his resilience. But he may have to rein in some of what his friends would regard as his natural

would regard as his natural
exuberance and become
more conformist if he is to
prosper again.

BY JOHN YOUNG

Ten years later, Lord Lambton, a junior defence minister, was photographed in what newspapers like to

On the Labour side, there was the curious case of John Stonehouse, then postmaster general, who disappeared to start a new life with his secretary, Sheila Buckley, leaving his clothes on a Florida beach. He subsequently served three years for fraud.

The main aim of Mr Hagerty's ploy was to wrong-step the *Sunday Mirror*, his stable-mate. He succeeded. It managed only a pick-up story on two inside pages. The *Sunday Express*, and *The Mail on Sunday* both changed their front page leads to re-narrate the allegations.

On each occasion he has survived because of recognition of his abilities and, this time, also because of the loyalty of the prime minister, an old friend.

For all his ambitions, Mr Mellor has never conformed to the prototype of the staid Westminster politician. He

Westminster politician. He has always enjoyed a broader life, pursuing a serious and extensive interest in music, watching football at Chelsea with Mr Major, and developing friendships with those in the arts, with journalists and with broadcasters.

That breadth has aroused the suspicions of the conformist, to whom he has seemed too bumptious, too tactless, too keen on person-

Offer to resign, page 1

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

Although a prison service initiative to deal with sex offenders began last year, the report says that the emphasis placed upon prosecution and prison for sex offenders might deter children from reporting abuse, particularly if a member of the family is involved. "If children are to be encouraged to tell of abuse, they need to feel much more confi-

Lady Howe, who chaired the working party that produced the report, said that many people would be un-

comfortable with the idea of dealing with most sex offenders in the community. There were some who were so dangerous and disturbed that they had to be jailed but the majority were not in this category, but "the evidence is that many abusers will abuse again unless something is done to tackle and change attitudes and behaviour".

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

This evidence of a new and apparently undetectable agent was disclosed as 10,000 delegates gathered in Amsterdam yesterday for the eighth annual conference on Aids.

The magazine cited an abstract published by a scientist from the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Thomas Spira, as its source for details of the six cases, but also identified at least five such cases. Dr Harold Jaffe, acting director of HIV-Aids at the centres, said yesterday: "We

Three of the six American patients had received blood transfusions, *Newsweek* reported, two of them after blood banks had begun screening for HIV. Of the other three, one has used intravenous drugs and another is a health care worker.

Until the cause of these cases is identified, the safety of blood transfusions is likely to come under renewed scrutiny. A new virus is not the only possibility; some experts have suggested that the diseases characteristic of Aids may also be produced by other conditions that lead to a suppression of the immune system.

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

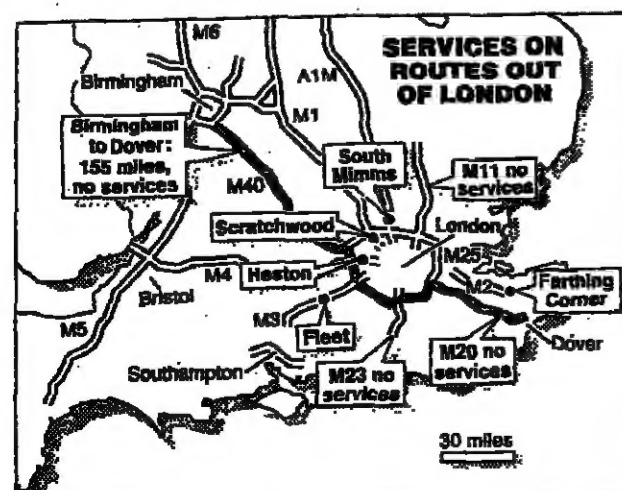
In spite of protests from motoring organisations, key routes lacking facilities include the M40, one of the nation's main north-south arteries, the M11 from London to Cambridge, the M20 between London and Folke-

The M25, one of the busiest roads in the world, carrying more than 150,000 cars, vans and juggernauts every day, has only one service area along its 117-mile length. One is due to be built near

still at the planning stage. The M40 is scheduled to get a service area soon at Ardley but barely a brick has been laid, which means that relief is still some years away. The transport department

The AA calculates holiday-makers travelling from Birmingham to the South Coast this summer using the M40, M25 and M20 could clock up 155 miles without seeing a roadside toilet until they reached Ashford in Kent.

Kent. Bert Morris, the AA's manager of highways and traffic, said: "We have repeatedly told planners that services are vital. A motorway like the M40 is welcome because of the relief of congestion it provides but that is no help to families who will be travelling on holiday this year and may find they need petrol or a simple toilet stop."



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Paymasters consider use of catchment areas for universities

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA
 EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

UNIVERSITIES and colleges may be financed according to local population levels, and informal catchment areas for students may be encouraged, if new proposals before their paymasters are accepted.

The new higher education funding councils that will allocate resources to the universities and former polytechnics are considering the introduction of a "geographical element in funding", taking into account the distribution of higher education in relation

to population. Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the English funding council, has already asked colleges to consider "whether there would be any advantage in seeking to foster growth in areas which are under-provided or where there is no provision at all". The government hopes to achieve a 30 per cent participation rate in higher education by the turn of the century, a goal which has forced the university sector to seek radical economies.

Although the councils emphasise that the plan is still on the drawing-board, the financial advantages of

the scheme are described as "rather persuasive", since linking growth to local population would reduce the need for new accommodation. A report published by the funding councils last month estimated the cost of living space for 8,000 extra students at £100 million.

Living away from home has traditionally been a central aspect of British degree courses, in sharp contrast to continental practice. However, a shift towards home study has been prompted by the freezing of the student grant since 1990 and the increase in rent costs. A survey of 85 colleges published

by the National Union of Students (NUS) in March found that 74 per cent of students' income from grants and loans was spent on rent. At least two computerised accommodation data bases have been set up to enable students to swap rooms in their family homes while they are at college.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said yesterday that it ought to remain possible for students to take the degree course of their choice. "But there's no doubt that the more students there are that live at home, the less pressure there will be on university

accommodation costs," a spokesman said.

Peter Toyn, vice-chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said that such a funding mechanism could be divisive, with only well-off students able to afford to move away from home. "I'm personally against the idea that students should study at their local universities. The idea has always been that students from all over the country and the world should come together," Professor Toyn said. The logical conclusion of this is that everyone should take business studies at London.

which would in many cases be provided by private firms aware of the boom in higher education.

The NUS reacted sceptically to the idea of funding linked to population density. "It does seem a bit illogical given that many universities are on green-field sites and one of their attractions to students is that they're not urban."

Students who could not afford to study away from home would be unable to take subjects which local institutions did not offer. "The logical conclusion of this is that everyone should take business studies at London."

BA cabin crews vote to strike over pay

BY DAVID DAVIS

BRITISH Airways cabin crews have voted for one-day strikes at airports across the country in a dispute over pay and conditions which, their union says, has been prompted by staff being moved to a subsidiary company.

A large majority of the 300 stewards and stewardesses, from the Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU), who met at Heathrow Airport voted for 24-hour action. The decision comes after a ballot showed 53 per cent of members wanted to strike. Seventy per cent of those balloted voted, with 1,003 in favour of strike action and 882 against, a majority of 121.

The union says that BA's British and European short-haul flights at Heathrow, Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Belfast would be affected by a strike. A date has not yet been set for action because the union first has to get permission to strike from Bill Morris, its general secretary.

BA cabin crews across the country were angered by the decision last April to move colleagues at Birmingham, Manchester and Scottish Highlands and Islands to British Airways Regional, a subsidiary. George Ryde, TGWU national secretary of civil air transport, said the decision would mean worse conditions and lower pay.

"Some members will lose up to £2,000 a year. I can safely say that if we decide to take strike action, none of BA's short-haul flights will take off during that time, and it will take them another 90 hours to sort out the mess. We don't want to take strike action. We have always said we wanted to negotiate but BA refuses to come to the table," he said.

A British Airways spokesman yesterday said she did not expect a strike to cause problems. "We have not yet been notified of the outcome of Friday night's meeting, but we do not expect a disruption to our European and domestic services. We will continue as normal. Our regional companies have to work to a profit and workers were offered cushioning payments. We also consulted the unions for seven months before taking the decision."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hunt for Charles I treasure

A Scottish businessman, Alex Kilgour, has launched a project to find and raise the wreck of Charles I's treasure ship, which sank in the Firth of Forth near Edinburgh in 1633 with the loss of 30 lives.

It was carrying presents for Charles's coronation as king of Scotland when it was hit by a squall. The authorities executed 19 people believed to have been on the ship.

Scottish historical organisations, private companies and a naval diving team are to help the salvage operation.

Workman dies

John Fitzgerald was crushed to death when a 10ft deep trench he was digging collapsed in the grounds of Princess Margaret Hospital in Swindon, Wiltshire.

Naked truth

An air and sea search was launched after a couple's clothes were found on the beach at Selsey, West Sussex, yesterday. It was called off when they turned up and said they had gone for a late night swim — and could not find the clothes in the dark.

Murder charge

A French pilot, Gaetan Henri Jules Beisy, 55, has been charged with the murder of Carolyn Taylor who was found stabbed to death at her home at South Holmwood, Surrey, last Wednesday.

Two accused

Two men aged 17 and 21 are due to appear in court at Leeds today on charges connected with a road accident on Friday in which a 47-year-old deputy head teacher died and his 14-year-old daughter was seriously injured.

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly premium bond draw are £100,000, 9MN 271940, from Belfast (value of holdings, £134); £50,000, 6JL 299330, Sheffield (£35); £25,000, 8JS 013194, Essex (£29).

Woman who killed husband challenges law of provocation

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN will challenge the legal definition of provocation today when she begins her appeal against conviction for murder. The appeal will give the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth, an opportunity to define a law that many women's groups claim is discriminatory.

Kiranjit Ahluwalia is appealing against her conviction for murdering her husband Dipak at their home at Crawley, West Sussex, in 1989. She was sentenced to life imprisonment at Lewes Crown Court after the jury was told that she threw petrol over her husband's head and set fire to him after being subjected to ten years of brutality. She pleaded guilty at her trial to manslaughter on the grounds of provocation, but not guilty to murder.

Yesterday, as Ahluwalia

waited in Holloway prison for the opening of her appeal, Lord Ashley, the former Labour MP Jack Ashley, said that he planned to introduce a bill to the House of Lords to remove the mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for murder. He said: "The legal defence of provocation is failing women, such as Kiranjit Ahluwalia, who kill their partners in reaction to brutality. Despite extenuating circumstances, they are sentenced to life imprisonment because this is the mandatory sentence for murder."

He said that removing the mandatory sentence would enable judges to pass appropriate sentences. If passed into law, it would provide justice for brutalised women.

Last year, the government

to remove the mandatory life sentence during the passage of the criminal justice bill. The amendments had won the support of senior figures in the judiciary, including the former Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane as well as former parole board chairmen and politicians.

Ahluwalia was given leave to appeal last year after Mr Justice Steph ruled that the original trial jury had been misdirected on the law on provocation. The appeal court had been told that, after another beating, she had waited until her husband was asleep before pouring petrol over his head and setting light to him.

The original court decided that the delay was sufficient to rule out a defence of provocation because Ahluwalia had sufficient time to calculate how to murder her husband. At present, the defence of provocation must include a "sudden and temporary" loss of self-control.

But the trial judge did not tell the jury when it was considering whether a "reasonable" woman would have been so provoked, that she had been battered.

Hannana Siddiqui, of the Southall Black Sisters group backing Ahluwalia, said: "The injustice of the present definition of provocation was highlighted last year when Rajinder Singh Bisla and Joseph McGrath walked away with suspended sentences after killing their wives. Both successfully pleaded that they were provoked by nagging."

Ahluwalia issued a statement through the group, saying that the law should try to understand why she acted as she did. "I feel the courts and people understand how women like myself feel, defeated and in the end helpless."

Women's groups will demonstrate outside the Law Courts today for the opening of the appeal, which is expected to last two days.

The hearing comes a year after Sara Thornton failed to persuade the Court of Appeal to overturn her conviction for murder on the grounds of provocation. She was jailed for life for stabbing her alcoholic and allegedly violent husband. The ruling was criticised by women's groups and penal reform supporters for failing to accept the cumulative effects of a violent marriage on a woman.

Judges have always decided that, if there is cooling-off period between any provocative acts and subsequent killing, the defence of provocation fails. In Thornton's case, they ruled that she had time to "cool down" when she had gone to the kitchen during a row with her husband and before she armed herself with a kitchen knife.



Thin blue line: Inspector Hobson, left, has to make do while Constable Jowett is the lone foot patrol

On patrol in an £8 a night banger

Derbyshire police has been condemned as inefficient and underfunded. Craig Seton has been to see how the force copes

INSPECTOR David Hobson commands 34 constables to cover the Dronfield sector of Derbyshire, a mixed urban and rural area north of Chesterfield. At the best of times, his resources are stretched to breaking point, but in the 24 hours from 6am last Friday only 17 PCs were on duty and fewer than half patrolled the streets.

Friday was a routine, almost mundane day, but one the inspector knew would involve juggling names on the duty roster to ensure at least one constable was on patrol, in a car or on foot, in each of the five beat areas in the sector, which has a population of 50,000.

The number available for beat duty fell as officers became involved in arrests, preparations were made for a drugs raid and one constable went for an eyesight test. Later, two more were "borrowed" for duty at Ashbourne, elsewhere in the county, to deal with new age travellers. The section should have 37 constables, but is three short. Four were off sick on Friday, two were on training and one was in court. One was attached to CID, three more were on annual leave and six were on rest days.

During Friday's day shift, only one officer patrolled the large rural area to the west. One driver dealt with Dronfield, population 23,000, a suburban commuter area for Sheffield a few miles to the north. There was one car patrol and a beat officer for Eckington, popula-

tion 11,000, and a lone foot patrol officer in Killamarsh, population 8,700.

The inspector's first problem came soon after nine. Constable John Adkinson left his Dronfield car beat to drive to divisional headquarters at Chesterfield six miles away to photocopy documents about a missing 14-year-old boy. The Dronfield police station, two former police houses knocked together, has no fax or copier. Inspector Hobson says: "How much is a fax, £300? It is not much, but I will lose that officer for at least 45 minutes."

Shortage of money is evident elsewhere. The run-down station with its leaking roof and peeling wallpaper has fingerprinting facilities, but no camera to photograph suspects. There is no word-processor and a new computer sits on a rickety wooden table. Outside is a draped out car the inspector rents from a local garage for £8 a night for an undercover operation against autocrime, which represents 44 per cent of recorded crime in the area.

Inspector Hobson, a policeman for 22 years, said it was impossible to ignore the force's particular underfunding difficulties, but he added: "I think the problems of this section are pretty typical of the rest of the county."

Derbyshire became the first force in modern policing to have its certificate of efficiency withheld after Geoffrey Dear, Inspector of Constabulary for the Midlands, accused the Labour county council of making swingeing budget cuts affecting operational policing. Labour leaders said underfunding was the government's fault.

Inspector Hobson, 41, believes that police resources and how the police respond to public demands are vital national issues that will have to be addressed. "Public expectations of the police are too high and we have got to educate the public to lower them to what we are capable of doing within the manpower resources we have got."

He rejects any suggestions that the morale of his officers has been destroyed and believes they are magnificently efficient within available resources. The Dronfield autocrime project, for example, involved overtime, which had to be rationed.

During the morning, the inspector drove eight miles to Renishaw to visit the sector's other police station, where Sergeant Steve Shannon is also juggling the roster. The station, purpose built in the last century, is cavernous and draft, its four cells so antiquated they can no longer be used. Its functions are to be transferred to Killamarsh,

where two police houses on a council estate have been knocked together, but there is no money to refurbish the building and vandals have already started smashing its windows.

Sergeant Shannon also has difficulties. Two officers have made an arrest for an assault and have to take the only available patrol car to deal with the suspect. Another officer is also dealing with a prisoner. The sergeant has no vehicle and the only operational officers available are himself and a constable on foot in Killamarsh. The sergeant said he had the bare minimum of officers to cope, but added: "I would put my men against anybody in the country for efficiency and performance."

One of them is Constable Tony Jowett, patrolling the streets of Killamarsh. On this day he is responding to the most pressing police issue in the village: concern about noise from motor cyclists using a disused railway track. For Inspector Hobson, it neatly illustrates the variety of demands on police time. His constable is sent to deal not with a serious crime, but a nuisance, albeit one that at that moment is most important to the people he serves.

Before he finished his shift, the inspector said: "It is not all doom and gloom, but my men deserve better support. The best resource we have is officers at the sharp end, but the service has got to be properly resourced and given the money to do the job."

Bar approves career reforms for mothers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar has approved its first formal policy on maternity leave to remove the risk that it might be in breach of UK and EC discrimination laws. The policy, which advises chambers to give women up to five years of notice, is also designed to reduce the level of disputes from the profession.

The Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 extended the provisions of the sex discrimination laws to the Bar, making it unlawful for a barrister or barrister's clerk to discriminate against a woman who was a pupil or tenant in chambers.

Stephen Sedley, QC, chairman of the Bar's new sex discrimination committee, said: "If chambers do not have a considered and justifiable policy on maternity, they could find that they have no answer to a claim of indirect discrimination." Another

factor is the drop-out of women from the Bar. The new maternity policy says: "If the Bar as a whole, and chambers in particular, wish to attract and retain able women practitioners, we should recognise that we are competing with other professions and employers."

By contrast, it says, employed women who have fulfilled the statutory conditions are entitled to maternity leave of 40 weeks and maternity pay for up to 18 weeks. The system of drop-out is not known and Mr Sedley's committee is now actively seeking to contact all women who have been called to the Bar and are not now practising.

The data are needed for a survey now being carried out on discrimination at the Bar, which is jointly funded by the profession and the Lord Chancellor's department. "We want to find out to what extent the lack of a proper policy on maternity or returning after having a baby has kept women out of the profession, how many would have come back had they been encouraged too," Mr Sedley said.

Chambers are being advised to give women one year off without losing their seat in chambers and having to re-apply, which has been the practice in the past, and also to give women a discount in their chambers rent of up to one quarter. The survey will lead to a new code of professional conduct on equal opportunities, covering not only women but also ethnic minorities and the disabled.

Today, British Institute of Management publishes survey of long-term British employment policies. Delegates from different firms attend first meeting of council to improve inner city and deprived areas.

Tomorrow: Government publishes green paper on plans to convert rents into mortgages for up to 1.5 million council tenants. Richard Branson outlines his proposals for the London-Edinburgh express rail service. Merseyside Police Authority discusses Alison Halford case.

Wednesday: First meeting of Labour's National Executive Committee under John Smith, new leader. Publication of monthly trade figures and retail sales for June. Report due on protecting and managing England's heritage properties. RSPCA and other British welfare groups opposing bullfighting ban in pensions to Spanish embassy.

Thursday: Election closes for Labour's new frontbench team. Hearing of an application for a summary judgment against Ian Maxwell by the liquidators trying to recoup assets for Maxwell pensioners. British Chamber of Commerce releases quarterly economic survey. Decision due on the Birmingham planning application for Britain's first housing development with an airfield.

Friday: Preparatory hearing at Stafford Crown Court prior to trial of Derek Hinton and six others charged with trying to defraud Liverpool City Council.

Saturday: Outrage marches to Downing Street to mark the 25th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. National Refugees weekend.



Wheel of fortune: Colin Scarsi takes a turn on his tyre

Cyclists' green saviour claims a revolutionary end to punctures

BY PAUL WILKINSON

COLIN Scarsi has come up with the world's first, patent pending, recyclable bicycle tyre which is guaranteed never to puncture or go flat.

His Green Tyre Company, which has just set up operations on Teesside, claims to have developed the answer to every cyclist's prayer. The one-piece tyre made from hard-wearing polyurethane has no inner tube or valve. The outer skin forms the tyre walls and tread and the space inside is filled with a sponge of microscopic air bubbles.

"There's no need for a pump or tyre levers or a puncture kit, no problems for the occasional cyclist who always finds his tyres flat when he digs his bike out of the shed and no worries about punctures on a long run," said Mr Scarsi, 40, who gave up his own marketing business to develop the tyre little more than a year ago. The raw material for the tyre,

which will be produced to suit a variety of machines, is a by-product of petrol refining but, he says, contains no toxic or carcinogenic elements.

Unlike a rubber tyre, there is no polluting vulcanising process and the production line uses only a small amount of energy, a single burst of heat being all that is required to start the chemical reaction in the tyre mould. Heat created by that reaction is retained in the mould to trigger the same reaction in the next injection of compound and so on. When the tyre finally comes to the end of the road, it can be ground up and re-used.

Mr Scarsi hit on the idea after reading a newspaper article about Goodyear working on a similar project for car tyres. He flew to Los Angeles and bought the injection-moulding process from the research laboratory, From Sevenoaks, Kent, Mr

Scarsi picked Teesside after hearing that ICI was laying off 4,000 chemical process workers. He now employs 29 staff who have the skills he needs.

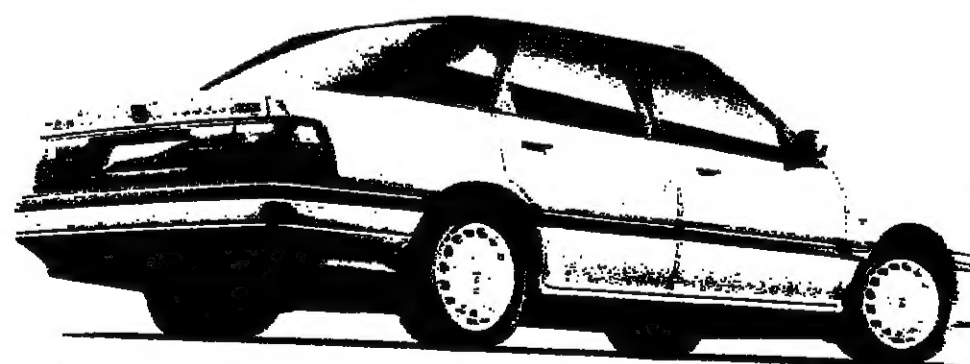
He reckons one of his tyres will last more than four times as long as an ordinary rubber one. At £12 to £19, depending on size, they are about £5 more expensive, but could work out cheaper given their longer life, and the fact that a cyclist need not buy an inner tube, pump, or repair kit.

He is making 1,700 a day in a small factory but expects to move into bigger premises next month, when production will more than double to 1.4 million a year. More than 500 cycle shops have placed orders and chances of success soared when he secured a contract to supply 274 Halfords superstores. First deliveries begin today. Mr Scarsi is now looking abroad, and wants to export 90 per cent of his output.

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The interiors of the Rover 400 could be thought of as comfortable meeting rooms rather than plastic

replicas of the Black Hole of Calcutta.

The engines have an urgency appropriate for someone on the move.

Three 16v petrol versions are available, including a DOHC, 140 PS 2 litre.

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Women

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after the election
she is announced on
the radio.

Margaret Beckett is to
take on the role of
her deputy leader re-

Margaret Beckett: "Over the



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Egypt stays suspicious of motives for Rabin visit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

EGYPT'S semi-official press yesterday outlined a series of tough questions for Yitzhak Rabin, the new prime minister of Israel, who arrives tomorrow for a short but historic visit.

"We would like the new Israeli prime minister to say whether he would drop all the slogans of power, fanaticism, arrogance and extremism his predecessor (Yitzhak Shamir) so tenaciously held to," the mass-circulation Cairo daily, *Al-Akhar*, writes.

"Would Rabin also say how long the balance of power in this area will remain tipped in Israel's favour, enabling it to fulfil its desires, policies and emotions by force? What is the form of peaceful coexistence any state depending solely on armed force aspires to?"

The newspaper reflected the sceptical view of many ordinary Egyptians, who remain deeply suspicious of Mr Rabin's motives.

"Since its birth, Israel has been fussing and complaining to the whole world that the Arabs have scorned its attempts to come to an understanding with them and live in peace with them. Now the situation is reversed and Israel stands in the position of the side rejecting peace."

The weekly *Rose el-Youssef* expressed its viewpoint in a cartoon captioned simply "Peace Talks" which depicted a young Arab boy on crutches, half his leg blown away and still bleeding, scrawling the slogan: "No to occupation" over a large Star of David.

Al-Ahram, the Cairo newspaper closest to President Mubarak, accused the Israeli prime minister of weakening his invitation to Arab leaders to Jerusalem for talks "by declaring in the same breath the same constants of his policy, which were not to make any concessions with regard to Israel's security, not to bargain

on the status Israel gave to Jerusalem as its eternal capital, retaining Israel's grip on large tracts of the occupied territories and strengthening settlement along the confrontation line."

Under the heading "Invitation without Concessions", the editorial declared: "This means that Rabin did not go very much beyond the rigid outline all Israeli governments have established. Worse still, he did not make any reference to the basic principles the international community has established in Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 of trading land for peace."

The hastily arranged visit will be the first by an Israeli prime minister since 1986. Although the Egyptian government had hoped it might extend to a three-way meeting also including James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who is due here on Wednesday, officials said last night that this now looked unlikely.

Mr Rabin was last in Egypt in 1989 in his role as defence minister. Although his military past has made the Egyptian man in the street wary of expecting many concessions, some prominent Egyptian commentators have expressed hope that the talks could have more than mere symbolic significance.

Samir Ragab, a close confidant of the Egyptian president, wrote in yesterday's *Egyptian Gazette*: "Some may think that the new Israeli prime minister is more cunning than his predecessor, as he is trying to gain US support, until he obtains the loan guarantees. And then he will be free from any promise. Personally, I doubt that this is the current personality of Rabin, who is eager to be different by proving to the world that he is the man who has shattered the rigidity of the petrified mentality."



Housing chain: Palestinians carrying rocks at Ofarim, a Jewish settlement on the West Bank, before Yitzhak Rabin's government suspended the settlement programme. The issue is crucial to the survival of his coalition

Saddam sends UN arms team packing

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United Nations official in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction left Baghdad last night having failed to persuade it to let his inspectors search the agriculture ministry.

As Rolf Ekeus wrapped up his mission, more than 1,000 people shouting slogans against his team and America marched past the ministry, where the inspectors have kept vigil since first being denied access on July 5. The demonstration was the biggest against their presence to date.

Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, told Mr Ekeus that Iraq would allow "experts from impartial countries" to enter the ministry. "Iraq is ready to invite experts in nuclear, chemical, ballistic and biological weapons from impartial countries or neutral members of the UN Security Council," he said.

Mr Ekeus, executive chairman of a UN special commission scrapping President Saddam's war machine under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire, described his meetings as worthwhile. "I would not say it is absolute stalemate," he said. "Asked whether there

was any change in the Iraqi stand, he replied: "Fundamentally, there is no change."

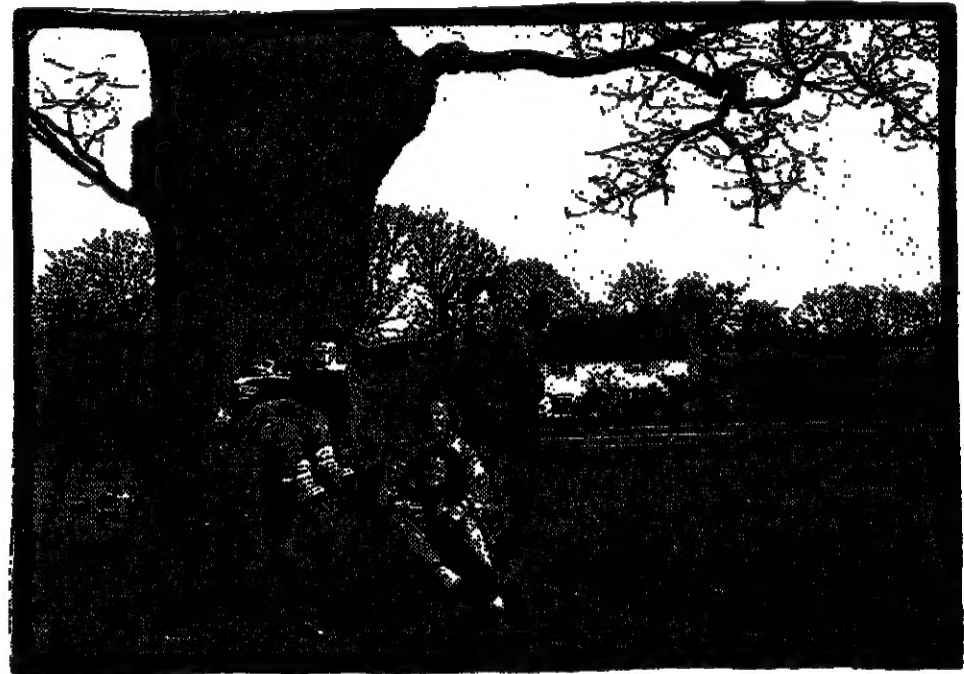
Mr Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on Friday to try to persuade the Iraqis to let the inspectors search the ministry for data on ballistic missiles and other arms programmes. After meeting Iraqi ministers at the weekend, Mr Ekeus said he would report back to the security council.

Mr Ekeus's inspectors, who waited in cars protected by Iraqi guards and police, have faced organised demonstrations and growing hostility. UN vehicles have been daubed with paint and their tyres slashed. Women have pelted them with vegetables. A protester tried to grab an expert but was restrained by an Iraqi guard.

The Iraqi press continued its virulent campaign against the weapons experts yesterday. "Our enemy is vicious, despicable and far from all norms and values," *Al-Thawra*, the ruling Baath party newspaper, said. It called them "inspection team scoundrels". *Al-Jumhuriyah* demanded: "Who knows what will they ask to search after finishing with ministries?"



This is the pony



The Watsons bought

Muslims attack pyramid power

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ONE of Egypt's main fundamentalist groups, al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, has threatened a new campaign of violence against the country's historic sites, including the pyramids at Giza on the outskirts of Cairo.

The threat, which followed last month's bomb attack at the famous Karnak pharaonic temple in Luxor, was made at a clandestine news conference in Imbaba, a Cairo suburb. The news conference has embarrassed the security authorities.

Yehia Ali, one of four leading militants at the conference — one of the few in which extremist leaders in Cairo have been identified — said: "The pharaonic statues and temples are pagan remains. They must be destroyed."

The staging of the conference and Mr Ali's willingness to be named reflects the growing confidence of the fundamentalists who plan to overthrow the moderate regime of President Mubarak. Aides who, like Mr Ali, were dressed in flowing white robes and white scarves, said the police knew there would be "a bloodbath" if he was arrested.

Police said eight Muslim extremists were arrested after the Karnak attack, which was mounted during the popular *son et lumière* show depicting life in ancient Thebes. It was followed last week by a petrol bomb attack by Muslim extremists on a tourist bus in Luxor, in which four tourists were injured.

The fundamentalists' decision to switch part of their escalating campaign against historic sites and tourists was one reason why the Egyptian parliament last week rushed through draconian new anti-terrorist laws. Under the new laws members of "terrorist groups" may face the death sentence.

The antiquities and foreign tourists have al-

ready caused holiday cancellations from a number of countries, including Britain. It is threatening the revival of the tourist industry, which was just beginning to recover from the Gulf war.

Al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (its name means simply "the Islamic group") claimed responsibility for the murder in June of Farag Foda, the leading secularist writer, in Cairo, and the assassination in 1990 of Riham el-Magoub, the Speaker of parliament.

Although the group's main leaders are still serving life sentences for the killing of President Sadat in 1981, new ones have emerged, often equipped with weapons smuggled from neighbouring countries, such as Libya and Sudan. Sudan is now receiving large amounts of Iranian aid. Mr Ali is one of at least 10,000 militants feared to be active inside Egypt.

Violence related to the extremists has already caused 46 deaths since March, the worst figure since 1981. Through a network of low-cost health clinics, inexpensive private schools and stores and workshops that provide jobs, the Islamic groups have attracted the young and the unemployed.

Outlining his group's goals, Mr Ali said that, in a fully Islamic Egypt, Christians would have the same rights and duties as Muslims, but would pay a special tax, would not serve in the army, and could not become political leaders. Coptic Christians make up about 10 per cent of the 58 million population.

"Since a Christian is an infidel, he cannot be superior to Muslims," he added, to nods of approval from his three bearded companions. "We should not think, but just obey God; this is the Koran." He repeated that his organisation's goal was "to end the present government system and set up an Islamic state".



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The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Spartacus inspires the losers in Germany's unity game to revolt



Gysi: angry at west's attitude to the east

A NEW coalition that aims to represent the interests of former East Germany is exercising a surprising attraction. The movement calls itself the Committee for Justice, a title with conscious overtones of the Spartacist movement and the tradition of peasant revolt against the uncaring might of the state. Founded earlier this month with a charter signed by 60 public figures, it has several hundred other signatories from east and west. Its first branches opened at the weekend in the east Berlin district of Marzhan and in Dresden, to the delight of those easterners who feel that they are without a voice in the unified Germany and to the chagrin of the main parties who fear a separatist uprising by the easterners. The committee is an intriguing mix of prominent individuals,

A pressure group in the tradition of the peasant rebellion against the uncaring might of the state is gaining support. Anne McElvoy writes from Berlin

uals, ranging from Gregor Gysi, the wily leader of the East's rump communist party, to the Christian Democrat Peter-Michael Diesel, the former interior minister, and flanked by pop singers, poets and priests. They are united in the conviction that the old east is getting a raw deal from the politicians and technocrats in Bonn, albeit laced with personal grievances over their loss of importance since the unification.

Cynics are dubbing the movement a "losers' charter", but there are a good number of Germans, east and west,

who consider themselves losers in the unity game and who are sick of Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, harping on about the blessings of the merger when the economy is struggling, unemployment is high and social divisions between the two parts are proving slow to heal. The group's appeal is that it expresses publicly the gripes that many have been expressing privately since October 1990.

The founders are predominantly east German figures who opposed unification on the terms in which it was carried out and resent the fact

that the debate on their country's past is limited to revelations about who co-operated with the secret police. They aim to snatch the mantle of protest from the civic rights groups whose demonstrations prompted the fall of the regime in 1989 but who have since become obsessed with the theme of the Stasi. Konrad Weiss, of Alliance '90, reflected the resentment many former dissidents feel when he damned the committee as "former communists, party turncoats, opportunists and Stasi men". But others, such as Friedrich Schorlemmer, the Social Democrat minister, who distrust the individuals involved, admit grudgingly that the committee is a necessary idea.

East Germany's intellectuals have been slower than most to adapt to the new

reality. The aura of moral authority that once surrounded them has been replaced by public frustration at their high-handed tone, which blamed the populace for preferring a swift rise in living standards to the less tangible benefits of a decentralised democracy to which they aspired.

In common with other former dissidents in Eastern Europe, they are disappointed to find their influence reduced drastically in the post-communist period. There is a strong degree of self-interest in this. The writers and ministers who masterminded the 1989 uprising have ceded their position as the main movers in society to industrialists and administrators as memories of the achievements of three years ago fade to be replaced by more practical concerns.

The committee has been careful to adopt a more robust approach better suited to present circumstances than the elegant, idealistic constructs of the intelligentsia.

MPs from former East Germany are angry that their complaints about the restructuring of the east's economy and its social effects are dismissed in Bonn as mere whingeing. "We are sick of being told that we should be grateful for being rescued from the past dictatorship whenever we raise a voice against present wrongs," said Herr Gysi yesterday. The Roman Catholic bishop Gottfried Forck, a fellow signatory of the committee charter, has also spoken of the "intolerable arrogance" of the west towards the east and the need for a political force to represent the latter's interest.

The group has said that it will assess public support before deciding whether to become a party and stand for election. Its immediate aim is to ensure that eastern votes are counted separately in the 1995 general election so that the reformed communist party and the civil rights alliance has a better chance of clearing the 5 per cent hurdle needed to stay in the Bundestag.

The group received an unexpected boost after one member, the elderly writer Stefan Heym, was attacked in a restaurant in Cologne's foremost hotel. He was hit in the face last week by an unknown assailant who described him as "verrückt" before fleeing. The incident has shocked liberal Germans because of its historical overtones and increased sympathy for the movement.

Hurd backs call for Kosovo monitors to prevent uprising

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN TIRANA

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary in Tirana, yesterday backed calls by Albania for the immediate dispatch of international monitors to Kosovo to prevent an explosion of unrest in the Serb-ruled province.

President Berisha said after a morning's talks that Albania demanded proper protection and human rights for the Albanian population in Kosovo. He called on Mr Hurd to speed up the dispatch of monitors from the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Mr Hurd underlined the dangers of Serbian intransigence. His talks here, the first held by a British minister in Albania, came after his tough warning to Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian leader, in

Belgrade on Saturday that human rights had to be "persuasively" upheld. "If there were some explosion in Kosovo, all would be lost and we would be back at the beginning," he said.

In a sombre and strained meeting, he also warned the Serbian president that Serbia had to respect the ceasefire agreement negotiated last week by Lord Carrington or the noose of political and economic sanctions would be tightened around the republic.

This was the testing time, he said. "The question is whether the guns fall silent in Bosnia-Herzegovina, whether the United Nations is allowed to monitor where the artillery and heavy weapons are, whether the flow of refugees stops, whether people, after time, have confidence to return to their homes."

Mr Hurd said that what mattered now was whether the agreement stuck. He said repeatedly, in Serbia and in Tirana, that the ceasefire was an urgent pre-condition for political talks. "I do not expect the guns to fall silent today," he said on the day that the

Carrington agreement was due to come into effect. But the UN must now urgently monitor the withdrawal of heavy artillery in Bosnia and send in monitors as soon as possible.

Mr Hurd's warning to Mr Milosevic was underlined by his meeting with all opposition leaders and his praise for Milan Panic, the new federal Yugoslav prime minister, who has voiced readiness to confront Mr Milosevic. He said that Mr Panic had said a number of wise things which were welcome. He said in a clear message to the Serbian hardliners that the world would never accept the permanent de facto partition of Bosnia or the Serbian occupation of other countries' territory. Unless this was understood, "the prospect for those responsible, those suffering from sanctions, those suffering from isolation in the world community, will be bleak."

"I am still realistic but I am not despairing," Mr Hurd said. Today he will brief European Community foreign ministers on the need for solidarity behind Lord Carrington's peace mission.



Fight for survival: a group of Bosnian refugee women in Zagreb yesterday scrambling to grab a pack of marmalade, donated by Germany as part of its food aid. About 3,000 refugees are waiting in the Croatian capital to go to Western European countries

Yugoslav arms ban breached

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE United Nations monitoring of the arms embargo against the former state of Yugoslavia is failing to stop the flow of "black market" weapons across the land routes into the areas of conflict, intelligence sources admitted yesterday.

Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina are the main recipients of arms consisting of both old-generation equipment and advanced weapons. The Serbs still rely on stockpiles of weapons accumulated over the years. The Serb-dominated Yugoslav army began collecting large quantities of weapons from territorial defence and police stocks as soon as the country's different nationalities showed signs of wanting to break away from federation. The Serbs too are in the market for advanced weapons.

Since fighting erupted, first in Slovenia and Croatia and in the past three months in Bosnia, new equipment has been coming in through a network of international black marketeers. With so many surplus weapons now on the open market, particularly from eastern Germany and other East European countries, there seems to be an inexhaustible supply of arms for foreign currency.

The intelligence sources were reluctant to point a finger of blame at individual governments, emphasising that there was no evidence of state-organised arms exports to the warring factions in Bosnia and Croatia. Many of the weapons, however, are of German manufacture. Among weapons known to be in use in the civil war are MP5 sub-machineguns and G3 assault rifles made by the German company, Heckler & Koch. In Croatia and Bosnia, armoured personnel carriers and tanks have been knocked out by Armbrust anti-tank rockets made in Germany.

A number of black market entrepreneurs were exploiting the loopholes in the arms embargo order to get such weapons through to Bosnia and Croatia. The sources said the sea route was not being used, which meant there would be the minimum of monitoring work to be done by the "small Adriatic fleet" of international warships gathered off the Adriatic coast. Much of the illegal arms traffic is reported to be coming down the Danube.

'You are talking to a man who will be dead in five days'

As Serbs drive north, fleeing Bosnians have no thought of returning home, writes Tim Judah in Bosanski Brod

IN AN underground room the flight paths of Serbian jet fighters are plotted while faint radio messages come in from distant pockets of resistance. By the bridge on the River Sava, 2,000 refugees plead to cross into Croatia.

The battle for Bosanski Brod, the only town not yet absorbed by a Serbian sweep through northern Bosnia, has been joined. In the underground communications centre, where they used to take calls for the fire brigade, they now respond to threatened air strikes.

Across the radio comes Osi-jeck radar control in eastern Croatia. Headphones on. A MIG fighter has taken off from the nearby Serb stronghold of Banja Luka. The stren-

gth is pressed. All quiet. A wax pencil plots the course. The jet circles a nearby town, another takes off from near Belgrade. Suddenly a siren comes out and they are wiped off the map. "Come home or dropped under the radar," explains a worried official.

Next door the Bosanski Brod Radio Club is hard at work. "Come in 17-11," says the unshaven man who used to do this as a hobby. An answer crackles from distant Gracanica, a beleaguered town to the south. It is surrounded, but according to the radio ham 10,000 Muslims and Croats have fled there in the last few days.

"They have taken everything. I don't know what went wrong," said Jasmin, who

works in the underground communication centre. "You are talking to a man who will be dead in five days."

Over the last two weeks Serb forces have swept through the north of Bosnia as they secure a corridor to link Serb-held areas in Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia itself. Tens of thousands are fleeing before them. In a camp near the neighbouring Croatian town of Slavonski Brod, several thousand women and children await a decision on their fate and also for news of their

menfolk in Bosanski Brod, held up by the rocket-hole bridge that links the two towns.

The men say they were ordered to retreat and with few arms could not fight the overwhelming military might of the Serbs. The rout has been total. There is no thought of going back. Here are the fire engines and firemen who fled two towns, the refuse GARBAGE truck and dustmen from another, an entire bus company from the little town of Ozak.

Spare tyres, piles of brake pads, oil filters, documents and computers, everything has been packed on to the 16-coach fleet. The drivers and entire staff of the company guard their buses from the predatory fighters of Bosanski Brod. "We left all our own belongings to save the company," said Miso Senkovic, the company director. "Our houses have been destroyed and our families are scattered. Once we are out and safe, we'll fix something up and try and merge" with another company.

Disaster has befallen these men so quickly that they cannot explain what went wrong. "Perhaps the order to withdraw was a mistake or a betrayal. I don't know, but it

saved a lot of lives," said Mr Senkovic. "Our government treated us as conscripts, but it did not give us guns or uniforms or food and here in Bosanski Brod they regard us as traitors."

Over the bridge in Slavonski Brod, a group of European Community ceasefire monitors wrangles over international law with a representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The latter argues that Bosanski Brod is about to fall, that the men will be slaughtered and so they should be allowed to cross.

A monitor raises his voice as he tucks into a plate of veal in mushroom sauce. "Able-bodied men from an allied state. The Croats have the right not to let them in... won't."

King may seek to run Romania

Versov, Switzerland: King Michael, Romania's exiled monarch, refused to comment yesterday on a proposal that he should seek the country's presidency.

A spokeswoman for the king, 70, who lives in Switzerland, said he was discussing it with various politicians and would issue a statement soon. Radu Carpeanu, the chairman of Romania's National Liberal Party, put the idea forward, prompting speculation in Bucharest, the capital, that any involvement of the exiled king in politics could split opposition ranks and help re-elect President Iliescu. (Reuters)

Nordic choice

Stockholm: Sweden's top military official was quoted as saying a Nordic defence alliance could be an alternative to one under EC auspices. (Reuters)

Pact agreed

Moscow: Despite an agreement between Russia and Moldavian separatists in the Transdniestria region of Moldova, five people have been reported killed and 11 wounded in fighting. (AP)

Papal thanks

Rome: The Pope, in his first public statement since he was taken to hospital to have a tumour removed, thanked his doctors and the public for their prayers. (Reuters)

Spanish rally

Madrid: Animal rights demonstrators, marching behind a banner reading "Torture: neither art nor culture", called for an end to bullfighting and work on a bullfight. (AP)

Drunken plea

Moscow: A firm in Kazan, central Russia, is offering a service to drunks — a card, to be pinned to coats, with the printed plea: "I am drunk today, if I fail to find my way home, please take me to the following address." (Reuters)

Scandal touches Turin MP

FROM REUTERS
IN ROME

MAGISTRATES investigating a huge corruption scandal have shaken the leadership of Italy's dominant Christian Democrats by linking the party's deputy secretary, Silvio Lega, to the enquiry.

Signor Lega, a leading candidate for the job of the Christian Democrats' national secretary, said magistrates told him on Saturday he was suspected of taking proceeds from bribery payments in Italy's business capital, Milan. "I am absolutely tranquil and at the disposal of magistrates. The important thing is that the truth emerge without any ambiguities and quickly, to prevent exploitation," Signor Lega, 47, an MP from Turin, told reporters.

Milan investigators probing a city hall scandal, which has so far led to the arrest of more than 60 businessmen and politicians, said Signor Lega was suspected of violating laws on the financing of political parties. Italy's biggest party has been in disarray since its national secretary, Arnaldo Forlani, resigned after the party sank to a record low point in April polls.

Catalans outflank Madrid in campaign for Olympic credit

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

Simmering controversy over Catalan exploitation of the Barcelona Olympic Games that start on Sunday boiled over at the weekend after two full-page advertisements placed by the regional government appeared in leading European publications, including *The Times*.

The main political parties in Spain complained that the publicity campaign not only described Catalonia as a country in Spain with its own culture, language and identity but also claimed all the credit "to get the Olympic Games for its capital, Barcelona". There was no mention of the role played by the Socialist mayor of Barcelona, the national government, or other Spaniards in financing the games.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, 72, president of the International Olympic Committee, is a Catalan and from the outset it was always agreed, in an unprecedented concession, that the Catalan language, flag and anthem would be officially used. It was not envisaged that Jordi Pujol, 62, the wily president of the



Samaranch: Catalan in charge of Olympics

are the patrimony of all Spaniards. Carlos Carnero, of the United Left Communist party, said Javier Gómez Navarro, the sports minister, said: "The Spanish government has provided more money than the Generalitat and Barcelona city hall put

together. Some people are going to feel very hurt by the advertisements because the Spanish state is footing over half the £803 million bill."

With just a week to go before the opening ceremony that will be watched by an estimated worldwide television audience of 3.5 billion, Señor Pujol would fail any adrenalin test. He revels in the limelight: even a two-minute meeting with President Bush was acclaimed as a triumph for Catalonia.

The buzz word in Spain is "Catalanisation" and worries are being expressed that Señor Pujol's fervour will give tacit approval to other nationalists, perhaps even terrorists, to jump on the bandwagon and disrupt the games.

Manchester bid, page 24

Vigorous Yeltsin goes over to offensive

BY BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin, moving back on to the political offensive on several fronts, has promised to defend the reformist press from an onslaught by conservative parliamentarians.

"As guarantor of the constitution and the people's democratic achievements, the president will take all necessary measures to protect the mass media," his spokesman said, after headline legislators voted to take the daily *Izvestia* back under their control. Igor Golembiovsky, the editor who led the paper's transformation into an independent co-operative, pledged to refer its future to the constitutional court.

Mr Yeltsin, after a period when his administration seemed to be losing its grip, has in recent days shown greater self-confidence in his handling of the economy and ethnic unrest.

The Commonwealth of Independent States, prematurely written off last spring, has sprung back into life as republics realise that they are more dependent on Russia than nationalist rhetoric would suggest. A peacekeeping force has been deployed with remarkable success in Georgia, and Russia has leaned on both

sides in the Moldavian war to soften their attitudes and disengage from the front line.

On the economy, Mr Yeltsin has vigorously defended what he calls a middle course between Western prescriptions and domestic pressures to keep the generals and arms manufacturers happy. The budget deal struck with parliament on Friday concedes far more to domestic lobbies than international ones. This is probably a calculated decision on the part of Mr Yeltsin, who doubts sees an important difference between his domestic critics and his Western ones: the former have nothing to lose by destroying him, the latter a great deal.

Viktor Gerashchenko, who has just been reappointed central bank governor, has already ruled out early convertibility, and mocked his predecessor's desperate efforts to keep the rouble's value at levels where convertibility was conceivable.

The new pragmatism detectable in the Russian leadership, as it imposes Pax Rossiana on its borders and follows its own economic rules, has not, however, put an end to talk of a possible coup.

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American election

Perot voters switch support to Clinton

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

AS THE Democrats and Republicans stepped up the race to win over Ross Perot's heretofore supporters, weekend opinion polls suggested that Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate, is the main beneficiary of Mr Perot's abrupt withdrawal from the presidential contest. He was heartened by a series of surveys that gave him substantial leads over President Bush.

According to the polls, Governor Clinton is forging ahead and has scored the biggest leap in the wake of a party convention ever recorded by a Democrat. The so-called convention "bounce" ranged in the polls from 20 to 24 per cent, outstripping the large jumps in support for Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale after their conventions in 1980 and 1984.

Although unhappy with the high disapproval rates of President Bush recorded in the polls, Republicans argued yesterday that they, too, would receive a boost from their convention in Houston in August. They pointed out that Michael Dukakis, the Democrats' 1988 candidate, was 17 per cent ahead of Mr Bush shortly after his convention.

But just as it looked as if this turbulent election year would ease into the normal head-on clash between the Democrats and Republicans, Mr Perot added another complicating factor by making it clear that

he would help his die-hard followers set up a political organisation to put pressure on the established parties and endorse established party candidates for Congress as well as the White House. Although it remained unclear yesterday what kind of support a Perot campaigning group will get or what effect it will have in the autumn, there is little doubt that Democratic and Republican strategists have a long way to go before they can be sure that the election will follow the well-worn two-party groove.

The establishment of a Perot group will serve to encourage the two parties to heighten their competition for the votes of the Texas billionaire's supporters. Despite polls showing that Governor Clinton is the choice of anything from 55 to 45 per cent of Perot supporters, while President Bush is picking up only about 30 per cent, the Democrats are not jumping for joy. Voter loyalty this year has been shallow and most pollsters expect Perot supporters, most of whom are believed to have been Republicans, to switch many times before the autumn. One pollster likened the average Perot follower's state of mind to that of a felled lover who will have several infatuations on the rebound before settling down.

Governor Clinton and his running mate, Senator Al Gore, did not slow their efforts

at the weekend to woo the millions of Perot followers. Campaigning on their six-day bus tour through the Rust Belt states of America's industrial heartland, the two Democrats interlarded their comments with praise for Mr Perot and pushed their credentials as agents of change. In Pennsylvania on Saturday, Governor Clinton made light of the polls, one of which shows him 27 per cent ahead of Mr Bush. "There'll be a lot of polls between now and the election. I don't think these should be taken too seriously," he said.

However, it is not all plain sailing for Mr Clinton. The withdrawal of Mr Perot is likely to increase the importance of turning out the black and Hispanic vote for the Arkansas governor. The Rev Jesse Jackson has been less than enthusiastic about Mr Clinton, who has done his best to distance himself from the Democrats' left-wing, could well be a crucial figure in generating a large black turnout at the polls. Mr Clinton may well have to improve his relations with Mr Jackson, leaving himself open to Republican accusations that he is becoming "liberal" and "extreme".

As the Bush campaign continued to be buffeted by unfavourable polls, pressure mounted on the president to recall James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to the White House to direct his re-election efforts. Mr Baker masterminded the president's 1988 victory. White House sources last night indicated that Mr Baker may well return with the title of counsellor.

A small group of Republican senators are understood to have urged Mr Bush to drop Dan Quayle from the ticket as his running mate. Republican sources dismissed any chances of that happening, although they acknowledged that the suggestion shows the deep level of discontent within the Republican camp.

● Kennedy conspiracy: Senator Al Gore, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, said he believes there probably was a conspiracy to kill President Kennedy in 1963 and that Lee Harvey Oswald did not act alone.

Un-American innuendo, page 12



On course: Bill Clinton, with several polls putting him ahead in the presidential race, watches his wife Hillary play miniature golf in Carlisle, Pennsylvania

Business and unions join to avert South African strike

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

BUSINESS and trade union leaders in South Africa have reached consensus on a wide-ranging social charter designed to avert a crippling eight-day general strike starting on August 3 and to prod politicians back to constitutional negotiations.

The agreement reached by the South African Co-ordinating Committee on Labour Affairs, representing ten major employers, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the African National Congress's senior alliance partner, speaking for 1.3 million workers, will be signed tomorrow if endorsed by members.

Both bodies are acting from mutual self-interest. There is tacit agreement between them that phase three of the ANC alliance's mass action campaign due to begin with the week-long strike could be disastrous to an economy already deep in recession.

Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, indicated at the weekend that his organisation is prepared to climb down following last week's emergency United Nations Security Council debate on South Africa. He said in Paris on Saturday: "We are going to have a strike and industry itself is going to shut down for 24 hours. That is a victory because it is now not only the workers but industry as well who are protesting against what the South African government is doing."

The draft charter calls for a voluntary shutdown of all businesses on August 3, with joint church, business and labour rallies in key centres. It calls for a moratorium on a

general strike until the end of September and a national conference at which organisations as well as business and labour would endorse a programme of proposals to deal with violence, jobs, poverty, food and housing.

However, sources indicated yesterday that both organisations might have difficulty selling the package to their members. Employers are anxious not to be seen to be gangling up on the government and becoming part of the ANC alliance while Cusani dare not risk being accused of

succumbing to the overtures of big business.

Cyrus Vance, the former US Secretary of State in the Carter administration, is due to arrive tomorrow as the representative of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general. His mandate is to recommend measures to help end violence and restart negotiations.

President de Klerk and his cabinet are heading for a secret venue to work out their strategy. There are signs that the government is preparing to alter its bargaining stance.

Peace mediators lead Renamo into talks

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

PRESIDENT Chissano has agreed to a face-to-face meeting with his arch-enemy, Afonso Dhlakama, of the right-wing National Resistance Movement (Renamo), at a time and date to be decided. He announced this here yesterday after talks in Maputo on Saturday with President de Klerk of South Africa and a further four-hour session yesterday in Harare with President Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

The Mozambican president told a press conference that he hoped his first meeting with Mr Dhlakama would "produce a positive attitude, so we can start rebuilding our war-torn country". The government has accused the rebels of prevarication during two years of fruitless peace talks in Rome

sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church. Ravaged by 17 years of civil conflict, the formerly Marxist state is now regarded as the world's poorest. Two million refugees live across its borders and nearly half its population have been displaced by the drought in the region. The war with Renamo is obstructing distribution of famine relief by aid agencies.

President Mugabe, who backs Mr Chissano's Frelimo government, recently held two meetings with Mr Dhlakama, but these made little progress. Mr de Klerk's intervention on Saturday may have been decisive, despite Mr Chissano's accusations of continuing covert South African help to the rebels, which were denied.

Salinas lures UK investors with low labour costs

After a new-style Mexican revolution, the nation's president, who visits Britain today, can boast of a thriving economy, writes Martin Fletcher

President Salinas de Gortari of Mexico probably gained as much attention winning a 1970s British showjumping competition as he did on his first official British visit in January 1990. He came seeking investment in Mexico, but found Western Europe had eyes only for the new democracies to its east.

It was a disappointing experience, he acknowledged during an interview with *The Times* at Los Pinos, the Mexican White House. After all, in a revolution as profound in its way as Eastern Europe's, the Harvard-educated economist had just overturned 60 years of passionate Mexican protectionism and transformed a closed market of 85 million people into one of the world's most open.

President Salinas was used to high fences. Within months of his return, he took the almost heretical step of requesting a free trade agreement with the gringos to the north.

President Salinas begins his second official visit to Britain today. At meetings with the Confederation of British Industry, Bank of England and the department of trade, he will again seek British investment, but this time he believes he is riding a winner. Through the North American Free Trade Agreement, he will be able to offer access to a \$3,000 billion market of 360 million people, a binding Mexican commitment to stable free-market policies, and all the attractions of a country with North American stature but Latin American labour costs.

Sitting in a dark leather armchair in his spacious office, the Mexican president, 44, is an engaging man of almost impish humour who moves suddenly off-the-record to gossip about American or British politics (he has not met John Major). During his 1988 election cam-

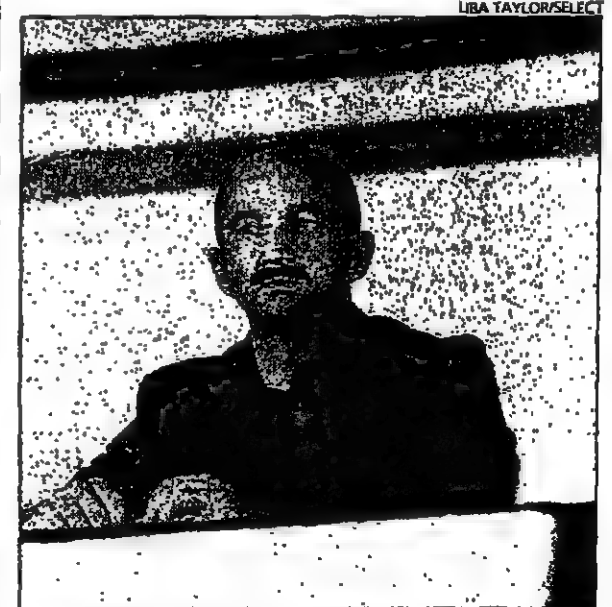
paign, his opponents dubbed him *el pelón de las orejas* — the baldy with big ears — and his short, slight figure belies the enormous task he has undertaken.

His Institutional Revolutionary Party has ruled for 63 years, longer than any other party in the world, but after a decade of economic difficulties and stagnation President Salinas won office with just 50.7 per cent of the vote amid allegations of electoral fraud.

He swiftly appointed a team of bright, young economic ministers, mostly trained at top American universities, and embarked on "salinastrotica". Slaying one sacred Mexican cow after another, he has drastically reduced his country's once crippling debt, slashed import tariffs from 100 per cent to an average 14 per cent, privatised four-fifths of Mexico's vast public sector, cut inflation from 200 to 11 per cent, virtually eliminated import licences and balanced the budget for the first time since the second world war. The economy is in its fourth year of strong growth. He has also curbed human rights abuses.

As far as the British government investment is concerned, he is pushing this time at an open door. Whitehall has realised the implications of the free trade agreement and of the rest of Latin America's headlong rush towards free trade. This was encouraging, President Salinas said. British investment is picking up. At nearly \$2 billion, it is vying for second place with Germany after America. Cadbury Schweppes, Coats Vytella and Trafalgar House are moving in, and others like ICI, Reckitt and Coleman and Burroughs Wellcome are expanding their presence.

Leading article, page 13



Salinas de Gortari: promising a commitment to stable free-market Mexican policies

Release of Suu Kyi demanded

Gareth Evans, the Australian foreign minister, has called for the immediate release of the Burmese democracy leader and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, who begins her fourth year under house arrest in Rangoon today. He said of Daw Suu Kyi, who led Burma's National League for Democracy before a bloody military takeover: "Her courage and sacrifice are an inspiration to all who believe in democratic principles and respect for human rights."

Kanan Devi, 76, a one-time glamour queen of Indian films and singing star, has died in Calcutta after a brief illness.

Karen Ferreira-Jorge and her husband, Alcino, the parents of triplets born to the world's first "surrogate granny", plan to divorce, a Johannesburg newspaper said. The couple made history in 1987 when Mrs Ferreira-Jorge's mother, Rita Anthony, gave birth to two boys and a girl after serving as a surrogate for her daughter.

Vietnam has invited the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, to Hanoi later this year to discuss disputes still plaguing bilateral relations, the Vietnamese communist party chief, Do Muoi, said.

Crown Prince Naruhito of Japan arrived in Madrid for a nine-day stay, during which he is to visit Expo 92 in Seville and to attend the opening of the Barcelona Olympics.

Donna Warwick, Patti LaBelle, Gloria Estefan, Donald Trump and the basketball star Isiah Thomas were among guests at the wedding of Whitney Houston and Bobby Brown in New Jersey.

Korea edges towards an economic unity

FROM REUTERS IN PANMUNJON

KIM Dal Hyon, the North Korean deputy prime minister, arrived in the capitalist South yesterday carrying hopes of economic co-operation from his hardline communist government.

But he gave little sign of wanting to bridge the political and ideological gap between the two Koreas during his visit, the highest-level economic exchange between Seoul and Pyongyang since the peninsula was divided in 1945.

"We begin this trip to the South in a bid to contribute to the re-establishment of our severed national economic links and the reunification of

our country," Mr Kim said in Panmunjon. "Without doubt, our visit will contribute to realising economic co-operation and exchange, setting the stage to improve our nation's economy."

But the 51-year-old deputy prime minister, a nephew of Pyongyang's autocratic leader Kim Il Sung, emphasised that economics, not politics, was the only item on his agenda this week. But South Korean officials say Mr Kim's visit will help revive inter-Korean relations that have been bogged down by a bitter row over the North's nuclear development programme.

Guerrillas clash in Kabul

FROM REUTERS IN KABUL

HUNDREDS of people were wounded in Kabul yesterday as armed guerrilla factions fighting for supremacy in the Afghan capital pounded each other with shells and rockets.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had treated between 400 and 500 casualties over the past two days in some of the most intense fighting the city has seen since guerrillas seized control in April.

Most of the fighting appeared to be concentrated in the west, where a recalcitrant Shia Muslim faction, Hazrat Wahadat, holds sway. The clashes followed a call by the ruling Leadership Council for armed factions that have carved up Kabul between themselves to leave the city.

Many of the areas worst hit are inhabited by Shia Muslims, whose Hazrat Wahadat party has so far refused to join the new government. They are unhappy with the share of power they have been offered.

Kremlin's mouthpiece dies of a heart attack in London hospital

BY JOHN MILLER

VIKTOR Louis, the Soviet Union's conduit to the West for 30 years and credited with a series of spectacular Kremlin scoops, has died in a London hospital. He was 64.

Louis, who had close links with Britain, died from a heart attack after an operation. Several years ago, he had a liver transplant operation at Addenbrookes, Cambridge, at a cost of £20,000.

An inmate of Stalin's gulag for eight years, he survived to become a freelance journalist working for a wide range of British, other European and overseas newspapers. He became famous for a series of scoops in the 1960s and 1970s about Soviet policies and personalities. Inevitably it was suggested that he was working for the KGB's foreign disinformation department or some other Kremlin agencies. Among his enemies were the decision to remove the body of Stalin from the mausoleum in Moscow's Red Square, which

prepared foreign Communists for the final move of Nikita Khrushchev's de-Stalinisation campaign, and the news of the downfall of



Svetlana Stalin: she became targeted

Khrushchev himself when he was overthrown by his colleagues in 1964.

Louis also leaked Kremlin moves on the schism with China and was always ahead of official Soviet channels on

the deaths of top leaders. He played an important role in delivering Khrushchev's taped memoirs to an American publisher, which provided a revealing insight into Kremlin infighting.

His relationship with the KGB came under scrutiny when he was involved in efforts to discredit Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the anti-communist Russian author, and Svetlana Stalin, the dictator's daughter. He was also widely criticised for exploiting the plight of Andrei Sakharov, the Nobel peace prize winner and spokesman for the country's dissidents, after he had been exiled to the closed city of Gorky.

Louis always denied he worked for the KGB, and suggested that his freedom to write political stories and travel widely in the West was because the Soviet Union needed at least one free journalist.

Obituary, page 15

Scarlett women pursue TV film producer in siege of Atlanta

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

WOMEN came in hooped dresses and lace, high heels and bonnets: they were tall, short, blonde, brunette, white, hispanic and black. All they had in common was a belief that they were Scarlett.

In Atlanta at the weekend the search continued for someone to play Scarlett O'Hara in an eight-hour television miniseries based on *Scarlett*, by Alexandra Ripley, the sequel to Margaret Mitchell's classic Civil War novel, *Gone with the Wind*. The role of Scarlett has become one of the most sought-after in cinema history. The film-makers report that more than 20,000 women, mostly amateurs, from all over the world have so far applied to play the part in their movie, *Scarlett*, to be filmed next autumn.

Only 410 were selected to attend the casting session in Atlanta; only two were called back for a second audition. A significant proportion of the remainder burst into tears.

Robert Halmi, the film's producer, says he has had to change his New York telephone number seven times to

escape the attentions of thousands of would-be Scarlett, some of whom have tried to ambush him as he left his flat. Half of the applicants are from the United States, most of the others are Europeans.

It has so far proved difficult to find a new Scarlett, with the same combination of delicate looks, steely poise and flirtatious charm that Vivien Leigh brought to the role. The casting director had requested only actresses of Irish heritage with "a fair complexion and light eyes", but showing broadmindedness he has been prepared to audition more or less anyone. Although Vivien Leigh was English, the film's makers are under pressure to appoint a woman from the Southern states of America. Mr Halmi has said he would prefer a redhead.

The Hungarian-born film producer does not expect to complete the selection before October, and in the next two months he will be calling finalists to Atlanta from auditions in London, Rome, Paris, Munich and Dublin.

One of those who attended the Atlanta casting sessions, and was disappointed, was Rochelle Curry, 21, a black woman who moved to Atlanta from New York. "I can be a brat when I want to be," she told *The New York Times*. "Nowadays you never know. She could be Japanese."

● Far East attraction: Walt Disney Co has applied to take over the American naval base at Subic Bay in the Philippines to turn the 98,000-acre site into another Disneyland.

Disney is only one of several companies keen to occupy the naval base, which the US Navy must vacate by the end of the year, according to Richard Gordon, the mayor of Olongapo, who heads a panel to recommend alternative uses for the base. Hollywood's Universal Studios has also asked to take over the site to create a studio complex, he said. Other companies have applied to build a casino, a plastics company and a shipyard. Mr Gordon said none of the proposals had been accepted so far and did not say when a decision would be made over the future use of the site.



LEADING THE OPPOSITION

The revitalisation of the Labour party is important not just for the party's supporters but for all who care about the future of British democracy. Even if the country is to become a *de facto* one-party state, with the Conservatives winning one election after another, the health of the political system requires that each time there should be a serious chance of change. And in between general elections, the governing party must be held to account. So the Labour party needs to be both a credible government-in-waiting and chief scrutineer of government policy.

The new leader of Her Majesty's loyal Opposition, John Smith, was elected by an overwhelming majority on Saturday by party members, trade unions and MPs alike. Holding government ministers to account in the House of Commons has been his forte. He won admiration for his forensic skills in cross-examining ministers over the Westland affair and he is superb at dissecting his opponent's case at the despatch box. Prime minister's question time promises to be more challenging for John Major than it was when Neil Kinnock sat on the bench opposite.

But Mr Smith should not be tempted to rely solely on his legal skills for exposing flaws in government policy. He must also find a more effective way for Labour's spokesmen to oppose. Because the party's instinct has been to reflect the views of producers rather than consumers in arguing against the Conservatives, it usually opposes change as if on principle and ends up sounding simply negative. Thus, if the government proposes the liberalisation of Sunday trading, Labour supports the shopworkers' unions, not the shoppers. When the government wishes to privatise the railways, Labour spouts the rail unions' line, not that of the passenger.

These small examples represent a microcosm of what is wrong with Labour and why it fails to win elections. It is seen to represent a minority and dwindling set of class interests, mainly reflected by their trade unions, rather than a grouping of voters from all sections of the population who happen to share certain basic values. Only if Mr Smith can lead a rethinking of what Labour is for can he make the party electable again.

To that end, as Mr Smith has already acknowledged, Labour must first rid itself of the block vote. While the party is dominated

by trade unions, it will feel bound to reflect the interests of producers over those of consumers. Then, as Gordon Brown and Tony Blair have argued, Labour will have to redefine the values for which it stands. These are no longer "common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange", as set out in Clause IV of the party's constitution. Socialism in that narrow sense died in 1989 along with communism, if not long before, as Hugh Gaiskell recognised in the 1960s.

Labour has been too obsessed with means rather than ends. Nationalisation will not achieve a fairer society. Consumers are better protected against the distorting effects of monopolies by tough regulation. Capitalism with judicious use of regulation can achieve Labour's ends of bringing prosperity to those at the bottom of society more effectively than socialism ever could.

The party therefore needs a new framework of values against which it can test each new policy. Academics use the jargon word *empowerment*; standing up for the little man (or woman) sounds better. So when looking at education, the party should ask not what do the teachers think, but what is the best policy for schoolchildren and their parents? In health, not what do the doctors, nurses and hospital porters think, but what is best for the patient? And as Mr Smith rightly acknowledged yesterday, the little man has ambitions too. Labour has missed a political trick throughout the past decade in trying to put a cap on those aspirations. The Tories have won elections by being the party that helps people to get on in life.

Despite Mr Major's *citizen's charter*, there is a political gap that Labour can fill. The Conservatives can be criticised as the party that helps big business, that is reluctant to regulate, that prefers to let the market take its course. They have taken power away from local government; Labour can campaign for it to be devolved as close as possible to the people. Labour can support more open government so that citizens can better assess the performance of those they elect.

Only if Mr Smith takes on this challenge can Labour realistically be seen as an alternative government rather than simply an irritation to the Tories. Not just the Labour party but British democracy will be the better for it.

THE MAN FROM EL DORADO

The architect of an economic revolution so sweeping that it puts Thatcherism in the shade arrives in Britain today for his second visit since he was elected president of Mexico in 1988. On his last visit in January 1990, Carlos Salinas de Gortari's efforts to win support for his reform platform were greeted with no more than courtesy; he had to bear with the scepticism surrounding most Latin American leaders after decades of promises unmarked by performance. This time he is likely to be rewarded with a far more attentive reception.

At home, he has won solid popular support for his "Mexican miracle", a wholesale conversion to private enterprise and open markets in which he is pioneering ways to give the poor a stake. Governmental elections earlier this month confirmed how tightly his Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) still controls the country it has dominated for 63 years, yet also showed that the government's tough new electoral laws mean something when the Conservatives narrowly won in the northern border state of Chihuahua. Señor Salinas has used economic reforms to stifle out some of the conduits of political patronage, confronting the politicised unions and privatising four-fifths of Mexico's huge public sector. This single opposition victory strengthens his claim that he is determined to modernise his political life too.

Ten years ago, Mexico's announcement that it could not service its debts launched the "debt crisis" of the 1980s. Today, Mexico's public debt burden, successfully renegotiated, is a smaller proportion of the country's wealth than that of most industrialised countries. Señor Salinas has balanced the budget, reduced inflation down to a manageable 11 per cent, and coaxed back capital to an economy growing three times as fast as

Britain's. Scarcely less remarkable is that the government now finances \$3 billion worth of self-help programmes run by the poor. Cynics protest that this is political patronage masquerading as an anti-poverty campaign; but the 80,000 committees which have formed in response suggest that here too, Mexico could be setting the pace in a subcontinent notorious for the gap between rich and poor.

Were he in Europe merely to sell a national success story, however, Señor Salinas could probably expect no more than a modest response to his pleas for the increased foreign investment Mexico badly needs. What is already attracting British capital is the prospect of access via Mexico to a free trade area which will match, in population and economic importance, the European Community. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the US and Canada has the support of both American presidential candidates. Its successful negotiation is now considered only a matter of timing.

There is anxiety in Europe that NAFTA could become a "fortress America" if the Uruguay round of global trade talks finally collapses. In Señor Salinas, Europeans have a champion of genuinely open markets whose fight against protectionism at home puts them all to shame and who thought out the regional NAFTA arrangement only after being rebuffed when he appealed for partnership with Europe on his last trip. Britain, whose investors are already vying with Germany for second place after the US in the Mexican sun, should treat this visit as an opportunity to compensate for its long neglect of a country, and a continent, where political and economic reforms are showing results as dramatic as any in Eastern Europe.

IN NEED OF WORK

Parliamentary democracy is careless about the talent it squanders. Generations of politicians have climbed the greasy pole, and then been casually tossed aside. It is often a bitter experience: a time when scores are settled in lurid memoirs or House of Lords debates. The extraordinary political upheavals of the past few years have left a clutch of leaders who have lost a party and failed to find a role. Lady Thatcher, Lord Owen and Neil Kinnock are all in need of a proper job.

The decision by Lady Thatcher to become a global ambassador for Philip Morris, the huge food, beer and tobacco conglomerate, must be welcomed, not least by her foes, as a way of channelling her energy in a constructive new direction. Writing her life story, making a few speeches to Japanese and American businessmen or plotting an occasional intervention in the European debate absorb little of the energy of a woman who until recently worked a 17-hour day. With some of her recent interventions she has seemed in danger of repeating the mistake that Sir Edward Heath made in attacking her. In contrast her new job should allow her to be positive and do what she does best: ginger up people and governments.

The anti-smoking lobby has latched on to Philip Morris's role as manufacturer of Marlboro cigarettes, and predictably condemned her appointment as lending respectability to an industry responsible for a large number of deaths. Sheer poppycock, as Lady Thatcher would say. A huge multi-

national corporation has fingers in many pies, and the job is certainly not that of international tobacco salesman. If it were she would not have taken it. The no-smoking lobby usually attacks the use of attractive young women to promote smoking to the impressionable young. Lady Thatcher at 66 need have no fear of this charge.

America is far better at finding a proper role for its former leaders than Britain. Some, like Gerald Ford, have settled back to endless rounds of golf and anodyne, if lucrative speeches on the rubber-chicken circuit. But others play a key part in the life of their country. Richard Nixon has spent 18 years rehabilitating himself, becoming a valued elder statesman. Jimmy Carter has thrown himself into resolving conflicts overseas and charitable work at home. Both men hold an important position in American political life, but well away from Washington.

British leaders should learn the same lesson. Clinging on to political life by haunting the corridors of Westminster is humiliating and destructive. Mr Kinnock should be gently dissuaded from standing for Labour's national executive committee and advised to find another challenge. Tories may balk at offering him the post of one of Britain's European Commissioners but Europe beckons for a man of his energy and ability. Britain cannot afford to go on wasting men or women of great political talent who happen to be on the wrong side at the wrong time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Trading and political priorities in wake of Maastricht

From Mr Rodney Leach and others

Sir, In the post-Maastricht confusion your newspaper has depicted the political issues with great clarity. For business, the priorities are also clear: an open market in goods and services; the enlargement of that market by the inclusion of other European countries; the reversal (not the slowing down) of the growth of central spending and bureaucratic intervention; the abandonment of the goal of imposed monetary union; the gradual rolling back of the CAP; and a successful outcome to the Gatt negotiations. In short, a Community dedicated to free enterprise and conscious that its fragile competitiveness must not be undermined by waste or red tape.

The creation of a free North American market without a single currency is a reminder of the fallacy that the two concepts need be linked; indeed Professor Feldstein, in a recent article in *The Economist*, concluded that monetary union "might actually reduce... trade among the member countries".

The performance of the Far East economies demonstrates that prosperity depends neither on collective political bargaining, nor on the subsidisation of poorer countries, nor on harmonisation of regulations and standards. Thus many of the key economic tenets of Brussels fail to pass scrutiny.

Your leader of July 4, "Mr Major goes native", you dismissed

the claim that the ambiguous concept of subsidiarity provides adequate protection against centralism; and you described Maastricht as "a mission statement for formal imperialism".

The process is usually portrayed as inexorable. Yet a change in sentiment is occurring in continental Europe potentially as profound as that which in Great Britain during the 1980s challenged the inevitability of socialism.

Germans and Frenchmen, no less than the Danes, are newly concerned about bureaucratic inefficiency and over-regulation, Brussels-inspired subsidies, back-door deals and the loss of national determination of economic policy.

Right up to and including Maastricht, Britain was the sole courageous proponent of the position that free market principles were best secured by democratic sovereignty. The Danish vote has shown we are no longer isolated. It would be a tragedy if the government were now to abandon the battle.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH,
DOMINIC CADBURY,
JOHN MANSEY,
ERIC PARKER,
ANDREW THREAGOLD,
BRIAN WILLIAMSON,
DAVID WOLFSON
3 Lombard Street, EC3,
July 17.

'Cohesion' in the EC

From Mr Dennis Coward

Sir, There is something essentially English about the calm rational tone adopted by a *Times* leader when it turns its attention to something entirely irrational. I refer to "End the extravagance" (July 14) concerning the absurd EC concept of a "cohesion fund".

This classic socialist exercise in the redistribution of wealth remains unchallenged, in principle, by the British government, who confine themselves to arguing about the sums involved. Your leading article takes a similar line:

... most northern countries share Britain's conviction that the EC cannot afford huge new north-south transfers, and welcome attempts to whittle down the sums now banded about.

The real point, surely, is that no sums at all should be "banded about" until the principle of cohesion has been explained to and accepted by the electorate.

Any politician who could explain to the British people why they should want to invest in new motorways and

factories in Spain and Portugal, so that those countries are better able to compete with British companies on the export and domestic markets, would be a truly gifted performer.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS COWARD,
Hartington,
Burnsall, North Yorkshire.

From the Director, Aims of Industry

Sir, "Cohesion", as your July 14 leader states, is the EC euphemism for handouts to our poorer partners to help them compete with their more efficient neighbours (in other words, our prices).

Cohesion can be illegal, even by EC rules. To take one example, Spain is defying social security payments from Basque steel-casting firms, thus enabling them to cut their prices. Protests to Brussels have so far brought no results.

This is the crude approach to concealing subsidies. Other countries stay within the EC regulations by "regional aid" (under article 92 [3] [a]). "Cohesion" is "compatible with the common market" (the

From Sir Roy Denman

Sir, One of the saddest things about the debate on Maastricht is how little has been done to explain to the average citizen the issues involved.

The Danes tried to deal with this problem by circulating nationwide copies of the treaty of Maastricht. Since this is virtually unintelligible they might just as well have circulated a paper on quantum mechanics. Why does the British government not send out to every citizen a short pamphlet setting out clearly and simply what he or she can hope to gain from a united Europe?

I doubt whether it will, for moving to a European Union will mean change. This, in Britain, is always unpopular. It will be particularly unpopular with politicians, for democratic control of an executive branch in Brussels will gradually switch to the European Parliament and British politicians in Britain will become steadily less important.

The interests of the politician and the citizen do not always coincide. As Edmund Burke said: "It is a general popular error to imagine the loudest complainers for the public to be the most anxious for its welfare". In the meantime, the Commission serves as a convenient scapegoat.

Yours faithfully,
ROY DENMAN,
194b Avenue de Tervuren, Bte. 15,
B-1150 Brussels,
July 14.

Commission's verdict) for a Spanish casting firm to use aid to repay loans (again, keeping down the prices).

Thus does cohesion encourage the inefficient and punish the efficient and law-abiding.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS,
Director, Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.

From Mr G. E. Howe

Sir, Sir Anthony Meyer (letter, July 9) draws our attention to the possibility that a "no" vote in a national referendum on Maastricht would compel the leader of the British government "to break its word to its European Community partners".

This possibility does not have to appear to have deterred the Danes or the President of France from allowing their people the right to choose by referendum how and by whom they shall be governed.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. HOWE,
The Folly,
Selham Road, Graftonham,
Petworth, West Sussex.

The churches and sexual behaviour

From Mr Andrew McClintock

Sir, Clifford Longley (July 11) says that the church should not set such high standards for our sexual behaviour. There is a marketing logic to that view: if the world is not buying your product, then change your product. If, however, the church has, as it and its Jewish forbears have claimed for millennia, a revealed standard of sexual behaviour, should it claim that this standard, because unfashionable, is invalid?

Of course there must be mercy in the application of the law: to greet a potential follower of Christ with 100 do's and don'ts is hardly to display God's sensitivity and love. But to decry monogamy on that account is to throw out the cabbage with the cabbage water.

As to fashions, they change — just possibly, I submit, because of respect for a sincere belief that is not jettisoned when unpopular. A social worker I know said that if those referred to him observed the ten commandments he would be out of a job: roll on the day when the church's continuing integrity can be recognised as something positive for the world.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MCCLINTOCK,
Clarendon House, Cavendish Road,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
July 12.

From Rabbi Dr Sidney Brichio

Sir, Clifford Longley is wise to ask the church to desist from perfectionist demands in regard to sexual morality. I am surprised, however, that in seeking to identify the causes he ignores the traditional Christian dualism between body and soul, and the implication that the purpose of sexual relations is not for pleasure but for procreation.

Public criticism of sexual immorality has always been popular because it enables individuals to bypass the more serious moral crimes of dishonesty and the large scale of human suffering which they do so little to ameliorate.

Faithfully yours,
SIDNEY BRICHIO,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
July 13.

From Mr David Watson

Sir, Clifford Longley's proposal for "progressive morality" suggests fascinating possibilities for extension to the other nine commandments. Why not, say, "honesty in five easy stages"?

First year: give up robbery with violence. Be content with a little pick-pocketing and handbag-snatching. Second year: shoplifting should be reduced to items of not more than £10 value.

Third: stop fiddling your expenses account.

Fourth: stop cheating on your income tax return.

Fifth year: give up all deceitful practices.

In fact the Bible lends no countenance whatever to such temporising with sin: witness the tremendous denunciations of idolatry in the Old Testament, and the equally sharp sayings of Christ in the New. Frank Buchman was right: the standard is absolute honesty, and absolute purity, now.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. C. WATSON,
31 Harold Heading Close,
Chambers, Cambridgeshire,
July 12.

Passive smoking

From Mr David Blunkett, MP for Sheffield Brightside (Labour)

Sir, More than 100,000 people are required to protect us from a lethal dose of tobacco smoke (*Health of the Nation* white paper report, July 9).

Whilst a ban on advertising would be the government's first step on the road to sincerity in implementing a preventive health strategy, decisive action is needed to protect those of us who are non-smokers but who are gradually having our health undermined by the freedom of others to pollute the atmosphere around us.

It is time, for instance, for British Rail to be encouraged to scrap the present system of dividing carriages down the middle into smoking and non-smoking sections. The air-conditioning systems rarely work effectively and those of us sitting in the "no smoking" area soon find that our clothes, our hair and most important of all our lungs, are coated in someone else's second-hand smoke. This is of course repeated in public places across the land.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.

Coping with hoods

From Mr Rowland Morgan

Sir, The season of degree congregations is upon us. Hoods, still made for ties and male padded-shoulder jackets, slip too easily from white-blossomed female figures.

May one hope that those responsible for creating academic dress for the new universities will be as user-conscious as are, no doubt, those designing eucharistic vestments for future generations of women priests.

Yours faithfully,
ROWLAND MORGAN,
University of Bristol,
Department of Civil Engineering,
University Walk, Bristol, Avon.

South Bank revival

From Dr J. M. Ashworth, Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science

Sir, The brightly-coloured picture painted in your leader (July 15) of County Hall becoming part of London's "Rive Gauche" on the South Bank is very much in accordance with my own vision.

Education, art and culture are entirely compatible; indeed, they are mutually interdependent. This is a view held not only by myself but by representatives of other organisations on the South Bank, including Lambeth Palace, St Thomas' Hospital Medical School and the British Film Institute, as well as the local market traders. What better way to revive "a depressed quarter of a big city" than to bring several thousand students to encourage "informal uses to flourish"?

You suggest a short-term occupancy by the LSE. I fear that would be impractical. However, I am very sure that once Londoners had seen the way in which my students would contribute to bringing life back to that depressed part of the capital, they would want them to stay permanently.

Some of them would probably like to stay as employees of the firms we would attract to our "social science park" — something you did not refer to, but a very important part of our plans.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ASHWORTH,
Director,
London School of Economics
and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Crossword addicts

From Mrs Simone Howells

Sir, As a "properly educated woman" able to complete your crossword, I was most interested in Mr Bryan Sanderson's analysis of their contents (letter, July 6). I had already hypothesised, from the literary and historical clues alone, that the setters were educated, as we were in the 1920s and 1930s; but I should like to add the Bible and sport to his list.

In retirement, my husband and I average one of your crosswords a day. For many years they have been reprinted in *The Australian* where today the puzzle number is 3,233. Today's *Times* number is 18,969.

I am something of an addict, who occasionally solves a puzzle alone; but I regularly do so when I can ask my husband for the sporting terms.

Yours sincerely,
SIMONE HOWELLS,
23 Beauchamp Street,
Deaking, ACT 2600, Australia.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Crime statistics

From Mr B. A. Walker

Sir, Mr A. H. Pacey, who is chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers' crime committee and Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, defends the police against criticism made of crime statistics (letter, July 6). Commenting on the "improving detection rates", he denies the suggestions in your leading article of July 3 that the police turn statistics to their advantage and that they or the Home Office conceal bad figures from the public.

A Gloucestershire youth was reported (earlier editions, March 11) to have confessed to 3,000 previously unrecorded offences (apparently all committed within the boundaries of

the Gloucestershire Constabulary). The confessions were made after his conviction for dissimilar offences and incurred no further penalty.

These 3,000 crimes, "written off" as "solved" under Home Office guidelines, boosted the detection rate of Mr Pacey's force from 32 per cent in 1990 to 35 per cent in 1991. Without them it would have fallen. A police spokeswoman said that such confessions were quite common.

How widespread is this practice, which produces these "improving detection rates"? I suggest the Home Office looks into the matter.

Yours faithfully,
B. A. WALKER,
31 Hopwood Close,
Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire.

Women priests

From Canon John Shepherd

Sir, The figures from the recent advertisement by the Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOW), reported on July 11 by your religion correspondent ("Synod to give clue to final vote"), are seriously at variance with those given in the 1992 *Episcopal Church Annual*, the official book of record of the Episcopal Church in this country.

According to the official figures, baptised members of the Church fell from 3,615,643 in 1985 to 3,072,760 in 1990 and to 2,446,060 in 1990 (the latest year for which figures are available). Communicant members in good standing fell from 2,202,607 in 1985 to 2,021,057 in 1990 and to 1,698,240 in 1990.

From Mr Jack Gill

Sir, Mr Bryan Sanderson underestimates your capacity to march with the times. The *Saturday Listener* crossword, which you rescued from oblivion last year and now print in the *Saturday Review*, includes all the trappings of modernity which your correspondent finds lacking in the daily puzzle, including the Russian language, higher mathematics, and a variety of cryptograms.

However, the price of solving it is likely to be a badly burnt midday roast or two rather than an overcooked breakfast egg.

Yours sincerely,
J. GILL,
9 Ridley Road,
Warrington, Surrey,
July 11.

From Mrs Maaleh Graham

Sir, Mrs Gay Bramwich (letter, July 15) seeks the skill to provide one of five crosswords "drawn from the hat". But is it a hat?

Some years ago we read that envelopes were placed on racks (no longer so, I gather) and lifted therefrom. My late husband gave

much thought to the kind of envelope — or handwriting — which might appeal. I wondered about purple, scented with violets.

However, about 1985, we sent in a winner, in our usual manilla envelope. The *Times* Atlas, the then prize, cost £27.50 in those days. We worked out that it had cost us at least £70 in postage over the years.

Yours faithfully,
MAALEH GRAHAM,
Breck Head Barn, The Wash,
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
Derbyshire via Stockport,
July 15.

From Dr David Harries

Sir, Like many of your readers, I suspect, I struggled in vain with the anagram heading your letters column on July 11, "Media monitor SS crowds". Alas, the solution which you offer, "Mad on Times crosswords", is short of an 's' and contains a superfluous 't'.

Yours etc. (or should I say "toy curse"?).
DAVID HARRIES,
1 Upper Cliff Close,
Penarth, South Glamorgan.

**REAR-ADMIRAL
MARTIN LUCEY**

Accompanying the Ministers were the Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (Major Walter E. Elliot, the Lord Advocate (Mr William Macdonald), Mr John Lamb (Permanent Under-Secretary for Scotland). The deputation was introduced by Sir Alexander Spott, member for Lanark North, and Mr Stephen Mitchell, member for Lanark, was among those present.

The representatives of the Churches were: Dr John of Scotland - the Rev Dr Church White, the Rev Dr Archibald Fleming (St Columba's, Pontreves), and the Rev J MacLagan; United Free Church of Scotland - the Rev

Hospital food is starving patients, say doctors

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PARALYSED patients recovering from serious accidents in Britain's leading spinal injuries unit are starving because the food is so poor, consultants say. The lack of an appetising diet is leading to malnutrition, they claim.

Patients at the National Spinal Injuries Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, built with £12 million raised by Sir Jimmy Savile, eat the same diet as those in the rest of the hospital but may be there 20 to 40 times longer. Doctors say the poor diet over a long period is hindering their recovery.

An unpublished study of the nutritional status of patients in the unit by the hospital's dietitians is understood to have confirmed the consultants' fears. It found low levels of albumin in their blood, suggesting that they were getting inadequate protein.

The Times has obtained a copy of a letter written by Dr John Silver, consultant in spinal injuries, last March in response to a complaint from the relative of a patient, Vivienne McHardy, who has

hospitals throughout the country were malnourished because they could not absorb the food they were given. The report, by the Kings Fund Centre, said that doctors and nurses often failed to recognise malnutrition even though it could delay recovery and even lead to death.

Christine McHardy, sister-in-law of Vivienne, said the family had had to bring meals into the hospital to keep her strength up. "When you are confined to bed with nothing to do the one thing you need to keep you going is decent food," she said. The family brought in lasagne, baked potatoes and whole roast dinners to supplement the corned beef, stew and salads served up by the hospital. "None of the hospital food was what I'd call appetising," she said. Vivienne had lost "an awful lot of weight."

Jimmy Savile, who is known to be concerned about the need to provide food that young people like, is negotiating to have the unit's kitchen converted to provide fresh food cooked on the premises. At present food for the whole hospital is prepared by the cook-chill method used in aeroplanes and shipped in from Wales.

Ken Cunningham, general manager of Stoke Mandeville said regular surveys of the 600 bed hospital showed high levels of patient satisfaction with the food. But he admitted there were "problems" in the 120 bed spinal unit. "These are mostly healthy young adults who aren't diseased and have healthy appetites. They are given as much food as they want but there is concern about the need for variety."

He said the dietitians' survey had not been published but he was "not aware" of any malnutrition. "That may be their scientific opinion but it is a strong word to use."

He denied that funding difficulties meant that Stoke Mandeville hospital was expected to feed patients on £1 a day. He said the actual budget was "much more" than that but could not give figures.



Silver, despite protests nothing has been done in the unit since breaking her neck in a road accident in August 1991. "I am sure the patients are suffering from progressive malnutrition and despite repeated protests at all levels, nothing has happened," he wrote.

Yesterday he said the quality of the food was a long standing issue and all the consultants in the unit were "very concerned."

A report earlier this year said that many patients in



LADY Helen Windsor and Tim Taylor left for an undisclosed honeymoon destination yesterday after their wedding at St George's chapel, Windsor Castle, on Saturday.

The Queen and her four children were among the royal guests who watched Lady Helen, 28, and Mr Taylor, 29, exchange vows during the 50-minute service conducted by the Dean of Westminster. Lady Helen wore a gown of pearl white silk zibeline with a billowing white silk and net veil.

The family gathered afterwards at Crocker End, the Oxfordshire home of the Kents, for a reception. The formal photograph shows (standing from left): Matthew Taylor, the Duchess of Kent, Lord Nicholas Windsor, the Duke of Kent, the Earl of St Andrews, Lady Helen Windsor, James Hartley, Timothy Taylor, the Countess of St Andrews, Lady Gabriella Windsor, Arabella Cobbold, Mrs Colin Walkinshaw (mother of the groom) and Commander Michael Taylor. Seated: Thomas Thornton, Nicholas Taylor, Lord Downpatrick, Sophie Elwes and Allegra Faggionato.

Ministers accused of risking social unrest

Continued from page 1
outset of the round has been to stick as closely as possible to the previously published spending plans. The Chancellor will point out that the economic background has deteriorated sharply since the budget four months ago.

Yesterday, Mr Smith's supporters disclosed that Labour would time a fresh review of its policies to coincide with the next general election. Mr Smith is expected this week to approve a general statement of Labour policies and values to go before the annual conference.

Labour is marking Mr Smith's election, and that of Margaret Beckett as his deputy, with the strongest onslaught against the government since the general election. Mr Brown said that the new leadership would demand a change of government policies to end the recession, mount an attack on the Conservative failure to honour their election promise

of a swift recovery, and urge the prime minister to tackle the rising unemployment, poverty and inner-city deprivation that are "threatening social cohesion".

He said the latest mortgage rate rise showed that the Tory election promise that economic confidence would follow their election victory, "was a fiction now increasingly exposed as a fraud". He said in Lochgelly, Fife, "Mr Major and Mr Lamont are guilty of misleading the country and now that their promise of a post-election recovery of confidence has not materialised they have no further excuse for being frozen into inaction."

Both Mr Brown and Mr Blair alleged that negative and highly personalised attacks on Mr Smith showed how desperate the Tories were becoming.

Block vote pledge, page 7
Peter Riddell, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Baker praises Rabin

Continued from page 1
which Washington regards as the main obstacle to peace in the region.

At yesterday's first meeting of the new cabinet, Mr Rabin and his colleagues suspended for a week all new settlements while a review was carried out of contracts approved by the outgoing right-wing Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir. Last week, Benjamin Ben-El-Mechaie, the new Israeli housing minister, said the government would not sign any new contracts for Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The move was the latest signal from Mr Rabin's coalition government that it is serious in its commitment to reach agreement with the 1.5 million Palestinians for a self-government in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Egypt suspends, page 9

Major rejects Mellor's offer of resignation

Continued from page 1
ness of newspaper self-regulation. It seems likely that Mr Mellor will remain responsible for dealing with Sir David's report when it is presented in a few months, although the possibility of another minister, perhaps his deputy Robert Key, handling it may be considered.

Mr Major has privately indicated in recent weeks that he believes the press has failed to make self-regulation work sufficiently well and is thought likely to back legislation next year. Sources said yesterday that the latest incident, which Mr Major regarded as an intrusion into the Mellor's private life, had affected that determination. The first reports drew on alleged private telephone conversations between Mr Mellor and Miss de Senneville.

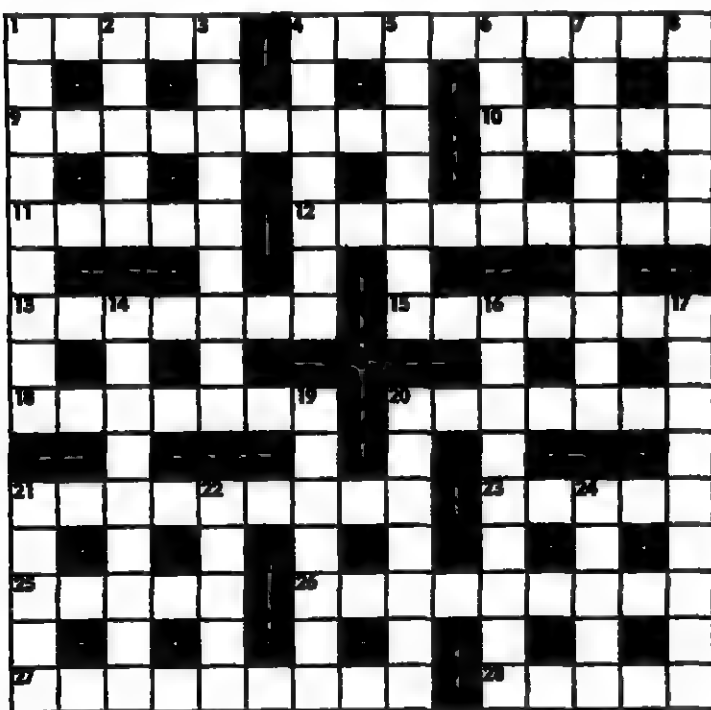
In his statement last night Mr Mellor said: "My wife Judith and I have been experiencing difficulties in our

marriage and we want to sort the situation out for the sake of each other and especially for our two young children. This I hope we can do in private." The statement added: "We both further hope these sensationalised disclosures in today's newspapers will be put aside and that we can be left to resolve these matters in private."

Mr Major's determination to prevent press intrusion follows disclosures last week that Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, gave birth to her first child three months before her marriage to Peter Bottomley. Mr Bottomley complained to the Press Complaints Commission about the reports, first published in *The Independent*, but he later withdrew the complaint after an agreement that the newspaper publish an apology acknowledging that the child was a private person.

"Public interest", page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,975



ACROSS

- 1 Making a bloomer, phone back about one (5).
- 4 Quite happy just to read when camping (9).
- 9 Bringing transient change right away (9).
- 10 Close compact (5).
- 11 Married, and said to be virtuous (5).
- 12 Note advertisement on 8, being forward (9).
- 13 The know-all can be pert — it's deplorable (97).
- 15 Felling in the ruin (3-4).
- 18 Wild flower spreading round the North (7).
- 20 Appeal in French to doctor (7).
- 21 A game fighter — a good man — a champion (9).
- 23 "A lover's eyes will gaze an — blind" (L.L. Lost) (5).

DOWN

- 25 Oliver's perverted bent (5).
- 26 The leading man (9).
- 27 A meeting about following the correct procedure (9).
- 28 Note a lot show spirit here (5).
- 1 Lot four includes unusual item — an off-repeated phrase! (9).
- 2 About sun-up he had to admit defeat (5).
- 3 A woman's heartless article written after look into plan (9).
- 4 The person supplying essentials for the new terrace (7).
- 5 Report ripped up with speed (7).
- 6 Over-tipped (5).
- 7 Fruit putting real taste into filling before this (9).
- 8 Put in order for outfit (5).
- 14 Moving after professional encouragement (9).
- 16 Striking and playing cricket without hesitation (9).
- 17 The center forming part of a dancer's repertoire (9).
- 19 A holiday-maker who's blundered (7).
- 20 Some appear confident it lends style (7).
- 21 Room will be found for the old Greek (5).
- 22 Excess expenditure (5).
- 24 A great film star's dress-ring (5).

PARKER DUOFOLD

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,974 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker.

Concise crossword
Life & Times page 9

Answers to page 14

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard
BIBLICALS

DEMAS

a. A popular mob devil
b. A failed friend of Paul
c. An opponent of Moses

ZIMRI

a. Friend of a prostitute
b. A high priest
c. A Midianite war lord

BILDAD

a. An oasis where Abraham sojourned
b. A Shilluk conqueror
c. Bezaiah's place of sacrifice

GAD

a. A son of Jacob
b. A Philistine god
c. Noah's bronze tower

Answers on page 14

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0636 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C. London (within N & S Cais) ... 731

M-ways/roads M1-M11 ... 732

M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T ... 733

M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25 ... 734

M-ways/roads M25-M4 ... 735

M25 London Orbital only ... 736

National motorways ... 737

West Country ... 738

Wales ... 739

Yorkshire ... 740

East Angles ... 741

North-west England ... 742

North-east England ... 743

Scotland ... 744

Northern Ireland ... 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

LAST QUARTER JULY 22

Sun rises: 5.09 am Sun sets: 9.06 pm

Moon sets: 11.20 am Moon rises: 10.42 pm

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

Beaufort 19 06 c Gwent 19 04 c

Northampton 20 06 c Jersey 20 06 c

Stroud 20 06 c London 20 06 c

Cardiff 19 06 c Manchester 22 02 c

Edinburgh 19 06 c Newcastle 21 70 c

Glasgow 19 06 c Friday 19 06 c

Today's pollen count forecast is MODERATE SELDANE.

A major advance in hayfever treatment.

Much of England and Wales will have a dry, bright day, although fairly cloudy with showers in the evening. Patchy drizzle and sea fog could affect channel coastal areas throughout the day. After a bright start for Northern Ireland and western Scotland, showers will develop, spreading to eastern Scotland during the evening. Outlook: Mainly dry with sunny intervals. Thicker cloud with rain reaching northern areas later on Wednesday.

WEATHER

MIDDAY: 1-thunder; 2-dry; 3-fog; 4-sun; 5-clear; 6-breeze; 7-rain; 8-snow; 9-fair; 10-cloud; 11-mist.

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IN THE NEWS

Future imperfect at British Coal

Think what you will about Arthur Scargill and his tactics in the 1984-5 miners' strike, but you have to give him his due. He was right about the future of British Coal.

For the guiding rule on the long path towards Cecil Parkinson's "ultimate" privatisation, it seems to be to think of a miner and then halve it, at least for miners and their pits. From more than 200,000 employees and 169 pits six years ago, the company has shrunk to about 50 pits and 44,000 miners.

Thankfully for Neil Clarke, the British Coal chairman, that is only half the story. Productivity per miner, for instance, has more than doubled. Consequently, the company will this week report its second year of profits, ahead of last year's £78 million profit, which ended 13 years of losses.

The company's recent record is the sort of multifaceted progression that Mr Clarke, who takes his work very seriously, will find pleasing and takes him one step nearer the reward that at 57, with 20 tough years in the Anglo American stable behind him, surely lies ahead.

His notoriously public-



Clarke: numbers game

ly manner caused surprise at his appointment to the high-profile post last year. Others feel his commitment, academic approach - evident in the rescue of Johnson Matthey - is just what is needed at a company whose picket-line victories lay in the past, but whose commercial success - most notably in agreeing new long-term supply contracts with the power generators - is still to be secured. Anyone who doubts his toughness should ask Malcolm Edwards, the commercial director who left this year after 35 years in coal.

With the glory of a corporate flotation almost certain to be denied, his reward for masterminding the final years of transformation is likely to be the sale of British Coal in lumps to buyers from Hanson to the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. All that could be a year away. As for the immediate future - think of a number, then halve it.

MATTHEW BOND

Surveys point to disappointing high street sales

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

TWO authoritative surveys out today will reinforce City conviction that the economy is still not recovering, and could be teetering on the brink of a fresh lurch down.

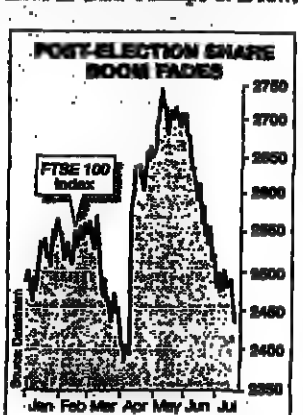
The Confederation of British Industry's monthly distributive trades survey finds that sales in Britain's high streets and stores slipped below last year's levels in June, after two months of promising increases in retail sales on a year-on-year basis.

The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry says that output continues to fall in London. Sterling and share markets are likely to encounter further turbulence because of concerns that the hoped-for recovery has stalled for a third time, added to market anxiety about the possibility of further German monetary tightening after the Bundesbank's summer break. Money market rates on Friday pointed to a possible rise in base rate of a quarter point from the current 10 per cent, but some dealers remain confident that the pound and shares will recover.

The London Chamber's survey emphasises that the capital continued to suffer more than the rest of Britain, with above average rises in unemployment, slower growth in earnings, and a weaker housing market. Malcolm Stephens, the chamber's chief executive,

said: "The consumer stimulus needed to revive economic activity has not happened." Official figures on money supply and retail sales this week are expected to confirm weak, possibly falling, consumer spending in June.

Some City economists have already become more gloomy about the prospects for recovery. Bill Martin, chief economist at UBS-Phillips & Drew,



is not alone in forecasting a 1 per cent contraction in gross domestic product this year. The further shrinkage expected in the second quarter will be the eighth running.

In a study of Britain's long-term growth performance, Mr Martin predicts that the trend rate of growth from the 1988 peak to 1999 will be no

more than 1.75 per cent a year, which makes the Treasury's assumption of 2.5 to 2.75 per cent optimistic.

With the prospect of recovery growth rates of at best 2.5 per cent a year in the nineties, Mr Martin expects the government will be forced into a profound rethink of public spending, and shift towards higher taxation to contain a rising budget deficit.

The CBI survey shows that 42 per cent of respondents in the retail trade saw sales fall in June compared with the same month last year, against 39 per cent reporting increases. The negative balance of 3 per cent contrasts starkly with the past survey when a balance of 26 per cent expected higher sales in June. A balance of only 1 per cent expect higher July sales than a year ago.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trades panel, said: "The small boost in high street sales in the two months following the general election now seems to have fizzled out." But he continues to see rays of hope in certain sub-sectors, such as food, footwear and clothing. The wholesale trade continues to report healthy year-on-year growth in sales in June, but the annual decline in orders placed in June suggests that the pick-up in wholesale sales is less secure in the months to come.



Eye on target: Lawrence Banks, of Robert Fleming - a keen archer - is confident of getting the issue away

More mortgages may rise

BY JON ASHWORTH

BORROWERS are bracing themselves for a new round of mortgage rate increases as building societies struggle to win back customers switching to National Savings.

Figures on Wednesday are expected to show that savers withdrew more than they put in last month for the second time this year and only the ninth month since records began in 1956. The net inflow for the first six months is ex-

pected to fall to about £500 million against £4.5 billion a year ago.

More medium-sized building societies, such as Bristol & West, National & Provincial and Alliance & Leicester, may have to follow the Cheltenham & Gloucester, which raised its mortgage rate from 10.75 per cent to 10.99 per cent from Saturday. Raising mortgage rates allows societies to offer higher savings rates.

Pressure for mortgage increases came to a head two weeks ago with the launch of the First Option Bond, the latest investment product from National Savings. The bond took £1.2 million from savers in the first eight working days, at an average of £16,000 an investor, and is expected to net more than £1 billion. The bond offers a net interest rate of 7.75 per cent for a year on sums up to £20,000, and 8.05 per cent on higher amounts.

The success of the bond has put the government in a quandary. While eager to raise money from the public, it wants to keep mortgage rates on a downward trend. Any decision to lower National Savings rates or withdraw the new bond to ease pressure on the building societies would prove embarrassing.

The Treasury would not

speculate on whether rates would have to be brought down. A spokesman said: "National Savings rates are kept under continuous review in the light of market developments. We couldn't speculate on if or when the rates might change." Any changes would only apply to new investors.

While less vulnerable than their smaller, more specialised competitors, the top building societies are also under pressure. The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, is challenging National Savings with products like Guaranteed Reserve, which pays interest of 7.5 per cent on £10,000 or more invested for a minimum term of six months but is less attractive over one year. A spokesman said: "We are obviously in a competitive environment and have to keep a close watch on developments."

National Savings is not entirely to blame for the strain on building society funds. Many societies have been discounting mortgage rates to attract first-time buyers, and knew they would have to make up the difference sooner or later. Building societies like C&G operate with narrower margins than large players like Nationwide and the Halifax and have consequently come under greater pressure.

Wellcome deadlines this week

BY OUR CITY STAFF

RETAIL investors must decide by 3.30pm tomorrow whether to put in bids for shares in the Wellcome Trust's £3 billion tender offer. Institutional investors have until 5pm on Friday. A total of 330 million shares are on offer. The tender price and basis of allocations are due to be announced next Monday.

Lawrence Banks, chairman of corporate finance at Robert Fleming, global co-ordinator for the issue, said: "We feel comfortable and well placed but anything can happen in five days." Recent issues such as Anglian Windows and Taunton Cider were shunned by investors, and there were steep falls in London share prices on Friday.

"Despite the market, we had a good day on Friday and are more than three quarters of the way there," Mr Banks said. He reacted cautiously to reports that American institutions have been unenthusiastic. "Our US managers feel entirely confident in reaching the target demand," he said. "Whether they will, we'll have to wait and see."

Reporting this week, page 21

Big firms to cut more jobs

BY OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

LEADING companies are likely to shed more jobs over the next year. But this will be part of a continuous process of re-organisation as much as a response to recession, according to a survey by the British Institute of Management and Manpower, a recruitment agency.

Of 163 leading BIM members surveyed, four fifths of whom are chairmen or chief executives, 53 per cent said they expected to reduce their workforces further over the next 12 months. Almost a third expected employee numbers to be lower than today in 1996, although half expected to be net hires of staff by then. Almost 90 per cent had carried out restructurings since 1985 and three quarters expected further such moves before 1996.

The survey predicts that mutual, long-term loyalty between firms and their employees will cease to be the norm. More companies will put work out to sub-contractors, increase flexible working and use more part-time workers. Pay rises are continuing to shrink in line with inflation. Incomes Data Services reports that almost half the pay deals logged in the past month awarded rises between 4 and 4.5 per cent and almost three quarters of recent deals were between 4 per cent and 5.5 per cent. Some companies are imposing pay freezes but others that are prospering are still raising pay by more than 6 per cent.

Economic View, page 19

Water watchdog hindered in turning on competition tap

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

ATTEMPTS by Ian Ryan, the director general of water services, to make sense of the government's efforts to promote competition in the water industry have received a sceptical response from industry leaders, who contend they would bring complexity and confusion rather than competition.

Under the Ofwat proposals, contained in a letter to water company finance directors in June, suppliers might have to charge widely different prices for water and for sewerage to different customers. Charges might vary between residential customers and industrial

users that are cheaper to serve or between big towns, where prices might fall, and rural areas where they would rise.

Ofwat concedes the industry's responses, which had to be in last Friday, "raised certain issues to be discussed", but insists that the industry has not wholly rejected its proposals.

Chris Mellor, finance director of Anglian Water, a high price supplier that would be affected, said: "We could all end up incurring a lot more costs for no net benefit to customers. We would finish with a series of tariffs, vastly more complex administration

and separate costing and there would still not be competition for domestic customers because of distribution costs and problems over water quality."

David Luffman, finance director of Thames, which has low charges, said he was sympathetic to the dilemma of the regulator, who had to be in favour of competition even though it was hard to achieve. He said Thames could envisage competing across its borders but this was unlikely to present any great opportunity.

Mr Ryan's problem arises from the government's efforts to make it easier for one firm to supply big existing users in another company's licence area through provisions inserted at the last minute into the Competition and Service (Utilities) Act, part of the citizen's charter.

Average household water charges vary round the country from £58 to £146, both from small water suppliers, and sewerage charges made by the ten privatised companies range from £69 to £135 a year.

This only partly reflects cost. Much of the difference stems from charges to meet capital spending to improve water purity, sewage effluent and beaches.

Ofwat proposed that companies could not simply lower their charges to one customer to prevent a competitor taking the business. They would have to offer the same price to comparable customers, by "de-averaging" their uniform charge structure.

Comment, page 19



Ronnie Fox preserves a golden silence

BY JON ASHWORTH

HAS the chairman been giving you dirty looks? Do fellow directors avoid eye contact at the morning meeting? Executives who fear they are about to be given the boot are seeking help to ensure that at least the boot is gold-plated.

Ronnie Fox is the "Gold-finger" of City legal circles. He is one of a handful of experts who specialise in negotiating golden handshakes.

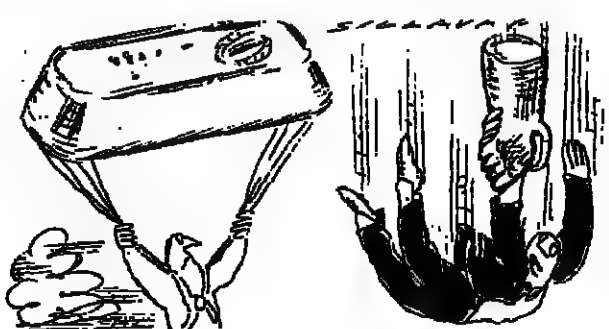
Senior partner of Fox Williams, a London legal practice, Mr Fox has played confidant to some of Britain's best-known businessmen. He will not reveal names. To do so would betray client confidentiality. But when Sir Ralph Halpern and Robert Horton needed advice fast, they might well have dialled his number. "I typically deal

in seven-figure amounts," says Mr Fox, who has seen a sharp rise in his clientele in the past year. "Once, the entire board of a company which had been taken over came to see me."

An intriguing case took place within the past six weeks. "I was telephoned at 7pm on a Tuesday evening by a senior executive and told to

come over right away. The board was there, and the company's lawyers. We thrashed out a deal at 3am."

Robert Horton's resignation as chairman and chief executive of BP was announced after close of Stock Exchange trading on Thursday June 25. He is in line for more than £2 million in compensation. The following



CHANGE ON WEEK

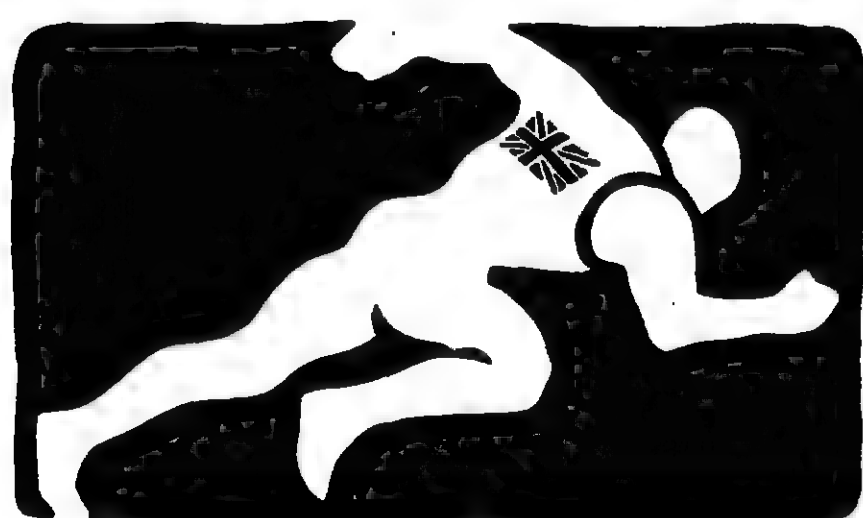
THE POUND

US dollar 1.9497 (+0.0302)
German mark 2.8509 (-0.0218)
Exchange index 92.8 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1852.1 (-51.6)
FT-SE 100 2431.9 (-58.9)
New York Dow Jones 3331.64 (+1.08)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 16548.07 (-235.65)

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Rover boosts production of vehicles at Cowley

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

ROVER will double productivity at its Cowley plant in two years as part of an ambitious £200 million investment to install one of the world's most advanced car assembly lines. The company said output from the plant near Oxford will rise from 50,000 cars a year to 110,000 using the same 3,000 assembly workers. The target is one of the most ambitious in the European industry and comes at a time when many carmakers are considering cutbacks rather than expansion. Last week, Ford announced it was cutting

output of its main Escort model at Halewood, Merseyside.

Rover sees little end to the recession, predicting no rise this year on the 1.6 million new cars sold in the United Kingdom in 1991. But Cowley will be building a new model, codenamed the Synchro, later this year, replacing the outdated Montego and Maestro. The new car, developed jointly with Honda, will be aiming to capture sales in the key mid-sector of the market, competing with Ford's Sierra and the Lancia-built Cavalier from Vauxhall.

Rover's bonus will be that the Synchro cars will be among the cheapest to produce, coming from a revolutionary rolling assembly line which allows the company to build both the executive Rover 800 series and the Synchro on the same line at the same time.

Michael Heseltine, the trade and industry secretary, will visit Cowley today to see how cars are delivered by individual slings. Instead of running on a conveyor, so that several different kinds of body, engine and model variant are assembled in sequence. Eventually workers will make three individual 800 model cars—a saloon, hatchback and coupe—as well as several different Synchro variants.

John Towers, Rover Group managing director, said: "We have created an advanced and flexible car production plant within existing buildings but with many of the advantages of a greenfield site." Like most European manufacturers, Rover has been forced to seek productivity increases of about 30 per cent across the company as a result of the challenge from Japanese newcomers setting up in Britain. Cowley is one of Rover's oldest factories, sprawling across three sites and making three different models. Rover has concentrated all of its activities into one 360,000 sq ft area in a move costing £200 million in total.

Prudential and 3i in MBO link

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Prudential and 3i have formed a joint venture in an attempt to dominate the market for large management buyouts.

Prudential Venture Managers, the Prudential's venture capital arm, and 3i signed a memorandum of understanding last month and set up a joint investment committee to underwrite MBOs worth more than £15 million.

The two companies are trying to speed up the MBO process and allow managers to compete more effectively against outside buyers. If the committee approves an investment the two managers will subscribe to all the equity on offer, although they will sometimes sell part of their stake to other venture capital firms once the buyout is complete.

Organisers of large MBOs have often suffered weeks of delay while they assembled equity investors. The delay has sometimes led to failure. The committee has provided four MBOs with funds of more than £75 million.



Not ducking the issues: David Murphy, who is seeking a directorship, at North West Water's Hollingworth Lake

Morland stages fightback

By OUR CITY STAFF

Greene King's £104 million bid for fellow brewer Morland enters its final week with Morland persuading some accepting shareholders to withdraw. Morland says shares were withdrawn on Friday which, it is understood, took Greene King's level of control to below 47 per cent.

Greene King is understood to have complained to the takeover panel about Morland's alleged approaches to accepting shareholders but the tactic was judged to be within takeover rules.

The bid closes on Friday. Jasper Clutterbuck, Morland chief executive, said: "I believe our independent shareholders have clearly recognised Morland's strengths and also the weaknesses of Greene King's arguments. They have overwhelmingly demonstrated that they are not prepared to accept a short measure."

GMB fights to place worker on North West Water board

By DEREK HARRIS

CONTROVERSY over salary increases for top water company executives takes a new turn on Wednesday when David Murphy makes a bid to become an employee director of North West Water, based at Warrington, Cheshire.

It is likely to be the first of several attempts by GMB, Britain's general union, to secure worker representation on the boards of water companies, which have many employees owning shares because of distributions on favourable terms on privatisation. At North West Water about 4,000 employees, 98 per cent of the workforce and all GMB members, hold shares. Initially two more companies are expected to figure in the campaign.

Mr Murphy said: "While Dennis Grove, the North West Water chairman, and Bob Thian, the chief executive, have been seeing substantial

salary increases, the manual workers have just had to settle for a 4.7 per cent rise and the white-collar workers one of 4.5 per cent." Also critical on environmental matters and the state of water networks' infrastructure, he said: "The company is investing, but not enough."

Mr Murphy, who works on general pipe maintenance and is also a senior GMB negotiator at North West Water, is the first person to be nominated by a trade union to the board of a newly privatised company, according to GMB.

He has been a member of Rochdale borough council for ten years and is a committee chairman for planning, direct services, environment and employment. He is also the chairman of the board of governors of Rochdale's largest primary school. The nomination of Mr Murphy, by a workmate, is part of a campaign that GMB

is aimed at securing high water quality and public accountability in the water industry.

On Wednesday, at North West Water's annual meeting, to be held in Fallowfield, Manchester, Mr Murphy is bidding for the one vacant seat coming up on the company board, for which there is already a key nominee, Derek Green, North West Water's managing director.

Mr Murphy says that if elected to the board he will pursue four main issues, two of them close to union interests but the others aimed at wider customer concerns. He wants: ☐ A cut in senior executive salaries at North West Water. ☐ Re-establishment of workforce training and skill levels. ☐ Regular reports to customers on water quality and environmental improvements. ☐ Ensuring speedy reconstructions.

Schroders leads foreign investment in Japan

SCHRODERS, the merchant bank, has become the largest foreign investment manager in Japan, after being appointed as an adviser to the country's third biggest pension fund, SIMKK. Schroders' Japanese investment subsidiary, has won a mandate from the Public School Teachers Mutual Aid Association and now has ¥739 billion (£3.04 billion) under management in Tokyo.

The association has appointed SIMKK to manage ¥3 billion as a balanced fund that contains Japanese and overseas equities and bonds. SIMKK hopes the fund will grow over the next year. The new fund moves the company to the top of the league table, ahead of SGI Warburg. SIMKK already manages assets for the Local Government Officers' Fund, Japan's second-largest pension scheme. The country's largest fund is not allowed to appoint outside managers.

VW takes Polish stake

VOLKSWAGEN is expected to take a 91 per cent stake in a joint venture with Tarpan, a Polish mini-van factor. A preliminary contract envisages investment of at least \$50 million by the German company. Edward Nowak, chief negotiator for the Polish side, said last month that Tarpan would produce 20,000 of Volkswagen's newest mini-vans. Poland said on Friday that Volkswagen would be guaranteed 4,000 of a total annual quota of 30,000 EC-produced cars imported tax-free. Originally, the German company was offered 10,000 but Poland cut the figure after France complained of discrimination.

Gerashchenko attack

RUSSIA has spent \$500,000 this year trying to stabilise the ruble, Viktor Gerashchenko, acting central bank chief, told the Interfax news agency. He said the money would have been better used to service more than \$70 billion of foreign debt. Mr Gerashchenko ruled out any quick moves to ruble convertibility. Interfax quoted him as expressing doubt about the wisdom of the central bank's intervention on the foreign currency market. He said world experience proved it was impossible to make a currency convertible without a balanced economic situation. "I do not think games with the fine notion of convertibility are timely now."

Analysts change name

THE Society of Investment Analysts has changed its name to the Institute of Investment Management and Research in a move to keep up with the times. After the deregulation of the London Stock Exchange, the number of stockbroker analysts has fallen and most members are now institutional fund managers. The new name is intended to reflect more accurately the interests of its 35 fellows, 1,891 associates and 980 students. It represents the views of its members to the government and bodies such as the Accounting Standards Board, the Securities and Investments Board and the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation.

Bank identifies projects

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said at the weekend that it would help a group of central European countries organise and finance projects to improve regional infrastructure. Jacques Attali, the EBRD president, told a news conference that the Central European Initiative had already identified some 115 projects. These included improving the Trieste-Belgrade-Kiev, Vienna-Budapest-Belgrade, and Balto-Adriatic transport links. Mr Attali said after attending a meeting of prime ministers of the Central European Initiative.

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EC to allow Nestlé Perrier takeover

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission, anxious to avoid confrontation with the French government before it holds a referendum on the Maastricht treaty, on September 20, will this week clear Nestlé's takeover of Perrier, on the condition that Nestlé sells eight of its smaller brands of mineral water.

Although Nestlé, the world's number one food maker, is Swiss, it has made sure over the past few weeks that any attack on its \$15.3 billion takeover of Perrier by Brussels would be seen as an affront to French industrial policy. It has lobbied hard not just in France but also in southern member states such as Spain, where it has large industrial interests.

Originally the commission estimated the acquisition gave Nestlé more than 50 per cent of the French still and fizzy waters market, but with Nestlé having agreed to sell off Perrier's Volvic brand to BSN, the number two player in France, that figure has been revised downwards to 36 per cent.

But the sale of Volvic to BSN has itself caused alarm bells in Brussels, where Sir Leon Brittan's merger task force is wary of a "duopoly" taking shape in France. But as there is no mention in the EC rulebook of duopolies, or col-

lective market dominance, it would have been difficult for the commission to have blocked this part of the deal, and EC sources say BSN's acquisition of Volvic will go ahead. That will give BSN, which already owns Evian and Badoit, about 32 per cent of the market.

The detail yet to emerge is which are the eight brands Nestlé will sell to an as-yet-unknown third force in the French industry? The commission insists BSN cannot be the buyer. Nestlé is unlikely to sell Vitel, its former-brand leader, but any of Saint-Yorre, Contrex or Vichy, acquired in Group Perrier may go.

The commission has skirted the problem of having to explain why it allowed the Volvic sale to go through by claiming that the eight smaller brands to be sold account for 20 per cent of the potential French mineral water output.

The commission insists that one buyer alone must take on all eight brands. Many analysts wonder just which group has the financial clout to do that, unless it immediately sells them on - possibly to BSN, turning the wheel full circle. This technically would not break the commission's conditions, but would inevitably invoke protests from Brussels.

Hanson confirms coal sale interest

By NEIL BENNETT

HANSON, the international conglomerate, has confirmed it is interested in buying all of British Coal in the government's privatisation next year.

But Hanson's interest depends completely on the outcome of contract negotiation between British Coal and the power generators and the eventual structure of the sale. Martin Taylor, Hanson deputy chairman, said yesterday: "If and when the government decides to privatise we will look at the information and see if we are interested. We are the largest producer of coal in the free world and already sell to Britain, so we have some expertise in the industry." Hanson, already

owns Peabody, one of America's largest mining groups.

The future size and value of British Coal will not become clear until the company has completed negotiations with National Power and PowerGen, the main power generators. Last year the two groups bought 65 million tonnes of coal from the company, two-thirds of its output, but they want to reduce this to only 25 million tonnes by the middle of the decade, and buy cheaper foreign imports instead.

British Coal is still trying to increase the offer to avoid too many pit closures. The government was pressing the two sides to reach agreement before Parliament rose last Thursday, but the talks are still deadlocked. Once the talks are complete, Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, will announce the form of privatisation, based on the replies to the government's consultation document on privatisation.

The government had originally wanted to divide British Coal into regions and sell them separately, but the threat of more pit closures could prompt it to sell the business as a whole. Both the Union of Democratic Mineworkers and the National Union of Mineworkers have expressed interest in participating in a buyout.



Taylor: "some expertise"

Cloud over oil could have a silver lining

A WEAK dollar and uncertainty over oil prices has continued to undermine the oil and gas sector. Smaller exploration and production stocks have been severely affected, with some falling by up to 30 per cent in the past month.

Bears suggest that even at these levels there is little incentive for investors to buy shares. Others point to the widening discount to net asset values and argue that it is now cheaper to buy assets on the stock market than in the asset market. When measured against conservative core asset values some stocks are now

cheaper than in December 1987, before the bids for Britoil and Tricentral.

Optimists include analysts at SG Warburg who, while being careful not to overstate the possibility of a bid, note their interest in Monument, Hardy and Pic, whose prospects are highly geared to current drilling programmes, while Clyde Petroleum and Aran Energy should benefit from the conclusion of terms for a floating production vessel to accelerate the development of the Gryphon field, with the first oil scheduled to flow in 1993.

Hardy has fallen from 116p

to 87p, despite a successful fundraising and further enthusiastic comment on its drilling programme. North Sea ventures include a 20 per cent interest in an appraisal of the potentially large Elgin gas condensate field that Warburg believes could be worth up to 40p a share.

Clyde, down from 53p to 37p, awaits news from Gryphon and is also involved in an ambitious appraisal well in the southern gas basin, which has good prospects and a 100 per cent-owned well in the Dutch North Sea.

The shallow gas zone might be worth 6p a share to Clyde

while the higher risk deep zone could be worth 25p, estimates Warburg.

Sentiment towards the sector has rarely been worse. But every cloud has a silver lining. It is almost certain that any bid for some of the E&P stocks would be encouraged, if only to give investors an exit route. A recovery in the dollar would also significantly enhance the attraction of British oil stocks to American predators.

The sector remains speculative for investors, but longer-term holders should eventually find their reward.

MARTIN BARROW

Competitive logic baffles regulators

One of the most frustrating aspects of the privatisation of former state utility monopolies is that regulation has come into continuous conflict with the drive to bring in competition by natural or unnatural means. In telecommunications, Ofcom's efforts to keep BT's prices down have discouraged competition by reducing the incentives for new entrants. This circle can only be squared by embarrassing artifices such as obliging BT to maintain cross-subsidies from business to residential customers.

In electricity, big users complain bitterly that they cannot make low-price deals in the more competitive privatised market. The answer lies mainly in regulatory rules designed to produce fairness between customers and between competing generating and distribution companies by eliminating price discrimination. In gas, competition is being injected by crude strong-arm tactics to force British Gas to reduce its share of the market and partly by rewriting the rule book to restructure British Gas and turn its pipeline system into a common carrier available to competitors.

The water industry, a natural monopoly, now faces complex manoeuvrings to try to satisfy the government's attempts to promote at least some marginal competition. On the face of it, there should be plenty of scope. For instance, household customers of South East Water, which supplies only water, face average water bills more than double those of the surrounding privatised Southern Water, which already supplies sewerage to its customers.

Large-scale competition could only develop if the pipes were turned into a common carrier system, as in electricity. Regulation appears to rule this out, however, since water quality is closely regulated and varies from one source to another. Unless licences change hands, competition therefore requires installing new pipes, effectively reducing the potential to the borders of water company areas, to industrial plants where quality is unimportant or to big developments where new pipework has to be installed anyway.

A second problem is that water prices do not simply reflect costs. Up to a third of the charges of big companies are to pay for part of the investment programmes required by regulators, mainly to improve quality. Nor do average prices necessarily reflect higher long-run marginal costs, as Mr Byatt is anxious to stress, if extra demand requires new supplies that might themselves meet environmental objections.

Ofwat must, however, do its bit to promote competition and has therefore insisted that existing suppliers cannot simply cut prices to an attractive customer being poached by a competitor, but must offer that price to comparable customers. This portends an administrative nightmare if companies follow Mr Byatt's undeniable logic and "de-average" their uniform prices, either charging more to costly rural customers or more to households than to industry, to reflect distribution costs. Companies covering a wide area and with relatively high average charges, such as Anglian Water, are most in the firing line. They might end up with dozens of different prices, all of which would have to be individually costed and agreed with Ofwat, whose staff might have to set 150 charge limits instead of 43. Complaints over pricing would mushroom. Ofwat argues that there is little virtue in present cross-subsidies. Why should those inland pay for clean beaches or townships be levied for costly rural sewage works? Water groups counter that their moves to make supplies more reliable by creating networks of different sources, epitomised by the London ring main, make nonsense of attempts to separate costs out for different places or customers. This looks like another case of reality making nonsense of sound economics.

Government buries a reputation for fiddling the jobless figures

New definitions generally shrink the dole queues. Next time it will be different, says Simon Briscoe

The government has a reputation in the minds of economists as well as the public for cutting unemployment by changing its definition. Against such folklore, headlines such as "Government increases unemployment" or "Jobless numbers fiddled upwards" would jar.

Yet these headlines could appear in a few months' time, when the government unveils the first results from a quarterly labour force survey that will focus attention on an internationally agreed measure of unemployment, one that does not use a claimant definition of unemployment.

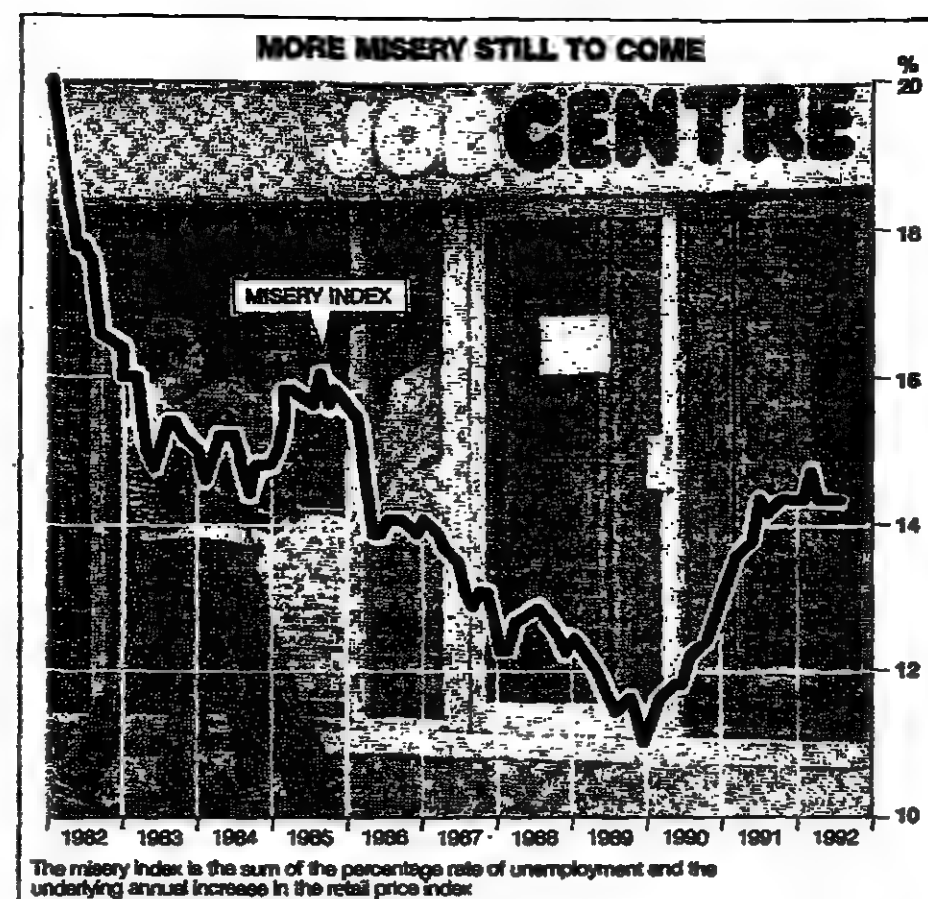
In contrast to most earlier changes to the claimant count, this will show a higher rate of unemployment, over 10 per cent, against the prevailing headline rate of 9.6 per cent. This should undermine the idea that the government and its statisticians distort unemployment figures only in one direction.

The arrival of the new survey raises the question of how to measure unemployment. There are, after all, shortcomings in the claimant count, however many times its definition has been changed.

All too often, statisticians have to accept a definition of unemployment that derives from administrative mechanisms available for measuring it and this tends to constrain the debate about how to count the unemployed. How should issues such as availability, wanting and searching for work be allowed for?

At one extreme, almost half of the population aged over 16 are "economically inactive", in that they are not in paid employment. Does this mean that the unemployment rate is around 50 per cent?

On the other hand, many categories of "unemployed" could, some believe, justifiably be excluded. Can the over-55s be excluded as they are near retirement? Can the under-25s be excluded as they could be in training and education? Could people married to a working partner be excluded? And perhaps those unemployed for less than six months are "in between jobs" or just



searching for the right job? Exclusion of all these might cut unemployment to no more than 2 or 3 per cent.

Whatever the appropriate definition of unemployment, the independent Unemployment Unit seems to have persuaded just about everyone that the official figures underestimate unemployment. References to the "30 changes in definition since 1979" are commonplace. In reality, there have not been 30 changes in the measure and not all changes have cut the monthly claimant count.

The problem with data from administrative systems is not well understood. In essence, the statisticians are not involved in the design of these systems and when the systems change, as they inevitably do, so do the statistics. The best example of this was provided by the largest of the definition changes. From 1982, the unemployed no longer had to register at job centres. Overnight, the number of people registered at job centres became useless as a measure of unemployment and was replaced by the claimant count. That change, which brought a fall of 200,000 in headline unemployment, is still criticised a decade later. But if job centre registrations had remained the measure of unemployment, "unemployment" would have fallen from 2½ million in 1982 to less than half a million now. Criticism of the change is understandable — it is irritat-

ing to have any change — but is it justified? The new system made the signing-on process for claimants easier and greatly cut the cost of benefit administration.

The cut in the headline rate of unemployment was no doubt appealing to the government but was it anything more than a pleasant side-effect? It would hardly have been the motivating force. There would have been simpler ways to make cosmetic cuts to the headline count. In all, there have been eight big changes to the definition of unemployment: four related to changes in benefit entitlement, two to changes in procedure and two to changes in the measurement system itself. All other

alleged changes have been insignificant.

The new unemployment figures will be derived from an enhanced Labour Force Survey (LFS). The survey has been running for many years, but it was carried out only annually, took ages to publish and lacked local area data. Accordingly, it received little attention. Now it has become quarterly, with the results available much more promptly. It will, therefore, present a real alternative to the claimant count of unemployment. Unemployment will be defined on internationally agreed terms and the survey will offer fuller information about the state of the labour market. It is likely to indicate a higher rate

of unemployment than that derived from the claimant count. At times, the two measures have been similar. That was fortuitous, as they differ greatly in coverage.

The LFS defines the unemployed as those who are without paid jobs, who have said they are available for work and have sought work in the past four weeks. This pays no regard to entitlement to benefits — the LFS excludes some of the benefit-claiming "unemployed". Most importantly, it omits those receiving benefit who are not looking for work and not available to start work. It also excludes those in employment, but earning insufficient to disqualify them from benefit entitlement.

Each of these groups, counted in one measure of unemployment but not the other, includes more than half a million people. Clearly neither definition is "right". The claimant count will remain and have some value.

The definition probably does not matter to most people, for the changes will not affect payment of personal benefits. Those who qualify now will continue to do so, even if the headline rate of unemployment is higher. There will be no more and no less personal misery.

The government's willingness to find around £5 million to fund the new LFS shows a reassuring interest in the labour market. Better information should improve government policy, on topics such as training provision, even though the dire state of public finances leaves no new money for benefits or training if unemployment appears to be a bigger problem.

The trend in unemployment is most important for economic management and should not be greatly affected by definition. But it could be. After the last recession, the claimant count of unemployment carried on rising until 1986. Yet on other definitions,

it peaked as early as 1983. Had this been appreciated more at the time, there might have been less pressure to reflate in the Lawson years, avoiding some of the damaging consequences. If the new measure, showing higher unemployment, were to gain currency, it could depress already fragile consumer confidence.

Since unemployment and inflation often move in opposite directions, one measure of "wellbeing" is the sum of the two, a so-called "misery index". Consumer psychology has been hit, as the chart indicates, and while the index is nowhere near the highs of the last recession, the downward trend of the 1980s has clearly been reversed. The incorporation of the new measure of unemployment could raise the misery index by up to one percentage point.

International comparisons will be easier with the new figures, though problems will still exist. The same survey is conducted in many countries, but differences in culture and survey practices mean the results might not be exactly comparable. Preparedness of respondents to admit to their own unemployment varies from country to country.

International comparison is unlikely, however, to show the UK in a particularly bad light. Britain's unemployment (according to the OECD) is around the middle of the range, even after the rapid increases of the past two years of recession.

Higher unemployment figures could cause the government short-term embarrassment, but the integrity of official statistics should receive a boost. That would provide the government with a greater long-run benefit.

Simon Briscoe is senior UK economist with Greenwell Montagu Gilt-Edged.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Dennis finds speed — at last

RON Dennis, managing director of McLaren International, the Formula One motor racing group, currently lagging well behind the all-conquering Williams team, is used to life in the fast lane but he beat the clock with a new first last week, screaming over the Yorkshire Dales at 650mph in an F4 Phantom fighter. Dennis flew into RAF Waddington in Suffolk with two fellow thrill-seekers, David Gower, the former England cricket captain, and Fred Finn, the world's most travelled businessman. The trio were guests of 74 (F) Squadron who were keen to take them up for a spin before the Phantom is phased out at the beginning of October. "It was a fantastic flight," said Dennis. "I can't understand how something with such electrifying performance can be considered so obsolete." Finn, who last year became the first person ever to notch up 10 million air miles, went up with the Red Arrows in 1990 and relished his latest experience.

The mighty fallen

AUTHOR Douglas Kennedy has written more than a travelogue of world stock exchanges in *Chasing Mammon, Travels In The Pursuit of Money*, just published by HarperCollins. Possibly the star of the book is Bela Jansco, 70, now the oldest member of the reformed Budapest stock exchange, having been its youngest 42 years ago. In the years between,



"I'm sending my Christmas parcels before they start selling them"

Jansco repaired cars, hauled coal and ran a chicken farm but set aside two hours each day to read the foreign financial press, keeping himself informed for a hopeful return to trading shares. Also memorable are the former 1980s City high fliers Kennedy met in London. One who had been on £300,000 a year has lost his wife, his job, his house and his gold card and is now living alone in a furniture-less Streptney flat. Another decided to take a salary that wasn't a telephone number, calculating lower-paid lower-profile jobs are more secure. "Now I'm your average City man — exceedingly boring," he says. "The same sort who worked here 50 years ago, and will still be here 50 years from now."

Language school

A FRAUGHT moment at the Bundesbank last week as the world's journalists wondered

whether Otmar Issing, the central bank's chief economist and monetary hawk, would deal a snub to the English-speaking media. After endless proceedings in German on the rise of the German discount rate, ITN's Libby Wiener piped up with a lone question in English, only to be told by the high-handed Issing that the answer to her question had already been dealt with at length in German. At first, it seemed Issing was going to refuse to cover the ground again in English but after an uncomfortable delay he caved in. Much more flak from the British on the exchange rate mechanism, however, and ITN may be forced to rely on a translator.

When Harry met...

COMMUTERS to the City via the Great West Road this morning will have been mystified by the massive "Hello Harry — Andrew" sign that appeared over the weekend at the Windmill Road intersection. A clue to its meaning is its position, 200 yards from the new headquarters of SmithKline Beecham Consumer Brands, where American Harry Groom is chairman. SmithKline Beecham became the market leader in chemical labs when it took over ICI labs in 1988, pipping Corning Lab Services Inc to the post. Ever since, Andrew Baker, president of CLS, has been trying to catch up and the two are now even. One of Corning's acquisitions was a lab in Philadelphia. SmithKline Beecham's own backyard, where Groom was then based, Baker immediately erected a gigantic

floodlit "Hi Harry" sign on the main highway. Corning has just bought JS Pathology, Britain's leading clinical lab, and with Groom now based in London, Baker couldn't resist another cheeky dig. Many will rue the further Americanisation of our cities as the Grooms and Bakers move in. Baker, however, has no excuse. He is British, born and bred.

Computer aid

SIR Michael Caine, chairman of Booker, the food manufacturing and distribution group, will have been in especial favour with Lady Caine, also known as Emma Nicholson, the Conservative member of Parliament for Devon West and Torridge, this weekend. Booker came up trumps when charity workers were seeking transport for a £500,000 mainframe computer, given to the Romanians by an arthritis charity, with whose system it was no longer compatible. The computer will be used to co-ordinate the relief operation for Romanian children, in whose plight Emma Nicholson has shown a deep interest. The Romanians asked a London lawyer friend, and member of the Territorial Army, for help with transport. When use of an army truck was ruled out because western military vehicles are still forbidden on former eastern bloc roads, he tapped a Territorial Army colleague, who works for Brewin's Food Supply, a Booker subsidiary. A truck was rapidly made available.

DEBRA ISAAC

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of the London Stock Exchange. It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for or purchase any securities of TransAtlantic Holdings PLC. Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for admission to the Official List of the whole of the issued share capital of TransAtlantic Holdings PLC. It is expected that admission to the Official List will become effective and that dealings will commence on 30th July 1992.

TransAtlantic Holdings PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1976, registered number 1503621)

Introduction to the Official List
of
the London Stock Exchange
in the life insurance category
Expected date of listing 30th July, 1992

sponsored by

S.G. Warburg Securities and S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

Share Capital

Following the expected allotment and issue of 25.8 million Ordinary Shares and 63.6 million 'B' Convertible Preference Shares on 30th July, 1992 in connection with the merger of TransAtlantic Holdings PLC and Capital & Counties plc, the authorised and issued share capital of the Company will be as follows:—

	Authorised £m	Issued and fully paid £m	Number
Ordinary Shares of 50p each	201.1	146.4	292,845,509
'A' Convertible Preference Shares of 50p each (yielding 6% p.a. based on an issue price of £4 per share)	15.3	15.3	30,575,919
6% 'B' Convertible Preference Shares of £1 each	63.6	63.6	63,637,024

The Ordinary Shares have been listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange since 1987 and the 'A' Convertible Preference Shares since May 1990.

Business

TransAtlantic is an investment holding company incorporated in the United Kingdom, whose business is the making of selected investments with long term potential in the life insurance and property sectors and in other fields related to the financial services industry, predominantly, but not exclusively in the United Kingdom.

Listing Particulars

Listing particulars relating to TransAtlantic will be included in the Companies Fiche Service available from Exel Financial Limited, 37-45 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4PB from 3.00 pm on 21st July, 1992. Copies of such particulars will be available during normal business hours on any weekday, Saturdays and Bank Holidays excepted, up to and including 3rd August, 1992 from:—

TransAtlantic Holdings PLC
40 Broadway
London SW1H 0BT

S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.
2 Finsbury Avenue
London EC2M

Copies of the listing particulars will also be available to the public from the Company Announcements Office of the London Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London, EC2N 1HP, for collection only, on 21st July and 22nd July, 1992.

20th July, 1992

SB rise will be pointer to Wellcome

FUND managers will welcome the chance on Tuesday to obtain an eleven-hour update on the pharmaceutical industry from SmithKline Beecham before they ink in their tender prices for Wellcome shares. SB is expected to report a 10 per cent-plus increase in pre-tax profits to between £250 million and £257 million, driven, says Steve Plag, of County NatWest, by strong pharmaceutical sales growth. But anything Robert Bauman, the chief executive, has to say about current trading could influence the Wellcome sale.

TODAY

News of John Menzies's Christmas will be today's highlight. The forecasts range from Count NatWest's £23 million to UBS Phillips & Drew's £25 million, against a clean £21.5 million last time. Christmas is thought to have been good, but the new year fell away badly.

TOMORROW

Besides SB, Tuesday will bring results from Reuters, the only other big company to report this week. Both will produce interim reports. Reuters is likely to show solid progress, with profits of anything between £185 million and £191 million expected to keep the market happy. What will be of special interest is news of the new Dealing 2000-2 system.

Radix, SmithKline Beecham, St. Modwen Properties, Pliva, Clayton, Northumbrian Fine Foods.

WEDNESDAY

Wednesday's biggest trading news may well come from Sir Anthony Pilkington as he faces shareholders at the Pilkington annual meeting. Shares in the glass manufacturer, supplier to the two industries hardest hit by recession, house-building and motor, were sliding last week in anticipation of a gloomy trading statement from the chairman.

THURSDAY

Greyhound's fall from grace will be under the spotlight again on Thursday. Further losses are certain, though not on the scale of last year's £38.5 million. The market is prepared for anything between £7 and £10 million, but will be more anxious to hear of any progress in bringing down gearing, which could be over 200 per cent.

FRIDAY

Pliva, Arlen, Banks (Sidney G), Black Arrow Group, Dyson (J & J).

MICHAEL TATE



Philips shares expected to climb again after fall precipitated by resignations

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL markets expect a mild recovery in the share price of Philips, the Dutch consumer electronics company, after the shares fell 11 per cent last Friday.

The fall to 25.60 guilders came after the resignation of Pieter Groenenboom, 57, who was in charge of high definition television, and Gaston Bastiaens, who headed Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I), which combines computer and video technology.

Financial markets have acknowledged that they overestimated recovery prospects for Philips, which in 1990 announced a loss of more than £14 billion (£1.2 billion). Led by Jan Timmer, its new president, the company carried through a tough restructuring programme. Last month, Philips admitted a setback on the road to recovery when it gave warning that 1992 profits would be substantially lower than last year's net figure of £1.2 billion.

German discount rate, just ahead of the two resignations, did not help market sentiment either. The consensus among industry analysts is that Friday's markdown in the share price was overdue and occurred for the wrong reasons, but the persisting uncertainty does not justify a substantially better ranking. PolyGram, the record company that is 80 per cent owned by Philips, now has a greater market value than its parent.

Philips plans to raise several billion guilders by selling property assets, it says in Philips Koerier, its in-house magazine. The money will be used to redeem loans and cut interest charges.

Yorkshire Food buys California nut group

By OUR CITY STAFF

YORKSHIRE Food Group, the expanding food packer, processor and specialist baker led by Mike Firth, is planning to ask for a stock market flotation next year after making a decisive move to become an international company.

In a second deal with Berisford International, the debt-ridden food and property group, Yorkshire Food has spent \$11.6 million to buy Treehouse Farms, a California almond processor with annual turnover of \$20 million. This triples its turnover in America, where it already has a Californian dried fruit and nut company, and will form the basis of a separate new American holding company.

In March last year, Mr Firth, who emphasises the company's Yorkshire roots and has his headquarters in Bradford, paid £12.8 million to Berisford for Scotia Haven Foods, a diverse but loss-making group of mainly dried fruit businesses.

Why foreign buyers' patience may not run to prime minister's timetable

In the past two weeks John Major has committed the government to defending sterling's ERM parity and to zero inflation. This is surely good news for gilts, or is it?

The trouble is that these aims imply such a severe trade-off for the economy that they lack credibility. To maintain sterling at DM2.95 points to below-trend growth, low output and rising unemployment. Attempts at zero inflation will exacerbate this.

In view of Mr Major's forceful policy defence, the immediate temptation is to think the government will defend it at any cost. If so, British interest rates will remain high for some time. And the yield curve will retain its present inverted shape as investors anticipate permanent inflation. The inflation measure has already fallen and further improvement is likely.

But the key question for gilts is: can this policy goal of low inflation continue to be pursued, no matter how high the trade-off?

Although last week's tightening by the Bundesbank is probably its last, there remains a risk that monetary growth could force the Lombard rate higher. During the last bout of excessive tightening in the early 1980s, the Bundesbank kept rates higher for longer than the market expected, only coming down once it was convinced inflation had eased.

When the rate cuts came, they were sizable. A reduction in German rates may thus be delayed until well into 1993.

Thus, Mr Major's choice is stark: if he wants interest rates lower he must either leave the ERM or be patient. There is little doubt he will choose the latter, even if this means waiting until spring to lower rates.

In view of the debt overhang and lack of confidence, it will be difficult for the economy to recover at present interest rates. As wage settlements fall below real interest rates, many people could fall into a debt trap, struggling to contain their burden of debt. However, unemployment growth has slowed. Until recently, there was a strong correlation between a slowdown in the rate of unemployment growth and higher spending. As fears of redundancy receded, confidence rose, allowing the savings ratio to fall. However, this relationship failed at the end of last year, probably because of the debt overhang.

Spending could remain weak, forcing a further retrenchment by the corporate sector, involving cutbacks in output, stocks and labour.

Having just won an election there is little doubt Mr Major can weather the inevitable political storm his policies will create. The main risk is if the markets decide to test his resolve.

But only if the foreign exchange market believes Britain's fundamentals are so poor will it force the issue. What catalyst could cause the market to doubt the ERM commitment? High unemployment is unlikely to cause a policy shift, although it could hit reach 3.4 million by the end of next year. The absence of monetary growth will add to the market's doubts about the appropriateness of policy.

Ironically, it could be the autumn spending round that upsets sterling and his gilts. The government is in a corner on interest rates and the same could happen on fiscal policy. The gilt market is expecting a tight public spending round. But over-zealous attempts by Michael Portillo, chief secretary to the Treasury, to curb spending will add to the economy's problems, further dashing hopes of recovery and triggering the fiscal stabilisers.

Thus, there could be cyclical deterioration in the PSBR, which will more than offset the gains from cutbacks in discretionary spending. The Budget deficit will not be brought under control. The policy stance appears attractive for gilts: a tight monetary policy to curb inflation; a tight fiscal stance to reduce the PSBR and attain convergence. It certainly favours a reallocation of assets for domestic investors, away from equities to bonds.

However, foreign investors may not be so enthusiastic, particularly as the risk of sterling devaluation will grow. As funding the PSBR requires sizeable foreign capital, this will partially offset the benefit of falling inflation and limit the upside for the gilt market.

GERARD LYONS
DKS International

GILT-EDGED

BRITISH FUNDS

INVESTORS on the bond market face further unsettling times this week as they attempt to absorb another welter of economic news, including the money supply today followed by the June trade figures and retail sales on Wednesday, looking for the faintest glimmer of recovery.

Prices fluctuated wildly for most of last week, amid mounting concern about the

German economy and the subsequent rise in the Bundesbank's discount rate. On Friday, the long gilt on the futures market was down almost a full point before rallying to finish a net four ticks lower.

Turnover was heavy with 50,000 contracts completed, as investors continued to hedge their positions with those in the cash market. It is another two weeks before the

Bundesbank meets again, but few in the bond market are prepared to rule out the possibility of a rise in domestic interest rates.

Andrew Lee, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson, the broker, remains cautious about prospects for the gilt market. "We are more likely to see weakness than strength. Investors want to see some stability return before returning to the market," he said.

Stock	Outstanding	Stock	Price	%	Yield	Div	Yield
1,200	£100 12/19/92	100%	12.22	10.01	10.01	10.01	10.01
1,200	£100 12/19/92	100%	12.22	10.01	10.01	10.01	10.01
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1,200	£100 12/19/92	100%	12.22	10.01	10.01	10.01	10.01
1,200	£100 12/19/92	100%	12.22	10.01	10.01	10.01	10.01

Daimler to take over Bonn stake in Dasa

FROM REUTERS
IN BONN

THE German government and Daimler-Benz reached agreement on Friday that Daimler will take full ownership of Deutsche Airbus (Dasa), one of the partners in the European Airbus consortium.

Jürgen Möllemann, economics minister, said the government would transfer its 20 per cent stake in Dasa to Daimler and stop subsidies compensating for Dasa's exchange-rate losses.

The deal, which takes effect retrospectively, from January 1, has been in prospect since a dispute panel of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade ruled in January that the guarantees were a subsidy, distorting competition.

Under the scheme — which cost the German government DM380 million in both 1990 and 1991 — Bonn has subsidised Dasa for exchange-rate losses suffered when the dollar fluctuates between DM1.80 and DM1.60.

Dasa is vulnerable to currency fluctuations because revenue from aircraft sales is booked in dollars, while the bulk of the company's costs are in marks.

This risk has, however, been reduced, as it has hedged future dollar revenue and improved efficiency, lowering its break-even point to a dollar rate of DM1.75 from more than DM1.80. Last year, at least 80 per cent of its revenue was hedged until the end of 1995.

Also on Friday, America and the EC signed an agreement limiting subsidies and other support for the Airbus consortium.

The accord bans future production subsidies on aircraft with 100 seats or more, and places a 33 per cent ceiling on direct development subsidies. It calls for strict conditions for repayment of the subsidies and caps indirect subsidies at 3 to 4 per cent.



Nestlé S.A., Cham and Vevey (Switzerland)

The shareholders are hereby invited to an
Extraordinary General Meeting
to be held on Tuesday, August 18, 1992 at 4.00 p.m.
at the "Palais de Beaulieu" in Lausanne (Switzerland)

Agenda

Change in the capital structure: Proposal by the Board of Directors to split the registered and bearer shares in the ratio of 1:10;

Amendment to article 5 of the Articles of Association as follows: "The share capital is three hundred and sixty four million francs (Fr. 364 000 000.-) divided into 36 400 000 fully paid up shares having a nominal value of 10 francs each, of which 11 300 000 are bearer shares and 25 100 000 are registered shares."

The holders of *bearer shares* may obtain their admission card (with a proxy) at the Company's Share Transfer Office in Cham, or order them through a bank, not later than Thursday, August 13, 1992, at noon. The cards will be issued either against presentation of a certificate in the name of the shareholder to the effect that the shares have been deposited with a bank, or after the shares have been deposited at one of the Company's Registered Offices. The shares will in both cases remain blocked until the day following the General Meeting.

The Board of directors' proposals concerning the amendment of the Articles of Association will be held at the disposal of the holders of bearer shares, as from July 21, 1992, at the Registered Offices in Cham and Vevey and at the offices of the Company's paying agents.

The holders of *registered shares* whose names appear in the Share Register will, within the next few days, receive the invitation to the Extraordinary General Meeting, together with a reply form for ordering an admission card or appointing a proxy, as well as with the proposals of the Board of Directors.

Holders of *participation certificates* are not entitled to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting. The resolutions of the Extraordinary General Meeting will be held at the disposal of the holders of participation certificates, after the General Meeting, at the Registered Offices of the Company in Cham and Vevey.

Pursuant to article 689d of the Swiss Code of Obligations, proxy holders of deposited shares are requested to notify the Company of the number, type, par value and classes of shares represented by them in due time, but at the latest by August 18, 1992 at 3:45p.m. Institutions subject to the Swiss Federal Law Regarding Banks and Savings Banks of November 8, 1934, as well as professional asset managers qualify as proxy holders of deposited shares.

Shareholders are requested to address any correspondence concerning the General Meeting to the Share Transfer Office of the Company in Cham (Switzerland).

The Board of Directors

Cham and Vevey, July 20, 1992
Switzerland

THE TIMES

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

TEL: DAVID GERMAN 071-481 1982

El Prado to make up for lost time

EL PRADO, who was the joint top-rated two-year-old in Ireland last year along with his subsequent Derby winner, St Jovine, can make a successful if belated start to the season at Ayr today by winning the Tennents Scottish Classic.

After he had won four of his six races as a juvenile, classic of a rather different nature were envisaged for this impeccably-bred colt by that excellent sire Sadler's Wells out of Lady Capulet, who won the Irish 1,000 Guineas in 1977.

Unfortunately, those ambitious plans had to be ditched when El Prado, who is quite a heavy-topped colt, developed leg trouble.

However, the word from Ballydoyle is that El Prado is poised to make up for lost time. Indeed, it is inconceivable that Vincent O'Brien would even contemplate sending him on the long trip to Scotland from Co Tipperary

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

unless he was confident of a happy outcome.

While Alford would obviously pose a threat if he were to run as well as he did at either Epsom, where he finished sixth in the Derby, or Royal Ascot, where he finished third in the King Edward VII Stakes, George Robinson, our Newmarket correspondent, remains adamant that Inner City represents the main danger to El Prado.

He, too, ran well at the royal meeting when he carried top weight into third place in the King George V Handicap, having previously beaten the same Profusion by a nose when winning a listed race in Rome.

Polish Blue was disappointing when beaten three lengths

in a listed event at York last time but Sharpstar has run so well in handicaps this season that no one should be surprised if he acquires himself well on this higher plane.

Aahsaylad, who was beaten a length into second place by Further Flight in the Tennent Trophy 12 months ago when carrying 8st 7lb, will now endeavour to go one better with his weight trimmed from nine stone to 8st 9lb by the 5lb allowance which promising apprentice Neil Kennedy is able to claim.

In this instance, though, I marginally prefer Fast, whose recent third behind Quick Ransom and Seal Indigo at York augured well after a two-month break.

The way that the Arundel raider was staying on at the end of a mile and a half that day hinted strongly that today's longer trip would be right up his street.

Bright Gem, who split the

previous winners Classic Storm and Purchased by Phone at Beverley a week ago, can go one better by winning the Garry Owen Cup, a nursery handicap, off bottom weight.

With Richard Hannon's two-year-olds in such fine form, Daily Sport Don is

napped to open his account at Bath.

A promising sixth to Norfolk Hero in better company at Newbury on Friday, Daily Sport Don makes a significantly quick reappearance in the Bath Maiden Auction Stakes.

Dick Hern has decided that the moment is right to launch the career of Dayur's sister, Elhasna, in the St John Ambulance Brigade Maiden Stakes but Mick Channon's Stanley Silks, a good third to Juniper Berry at Newmarket in April, is preferred on this occasion.

Finally Penang Star's easy win at Southwell on Friday was a timely reminder that Pizza Connection, his conqueror by two lengths at Nottingham, should not be missed at Windsor this evening when he endeavours to retain his 100 per cent record in the Cheveley Park Stud Handicap.



O'Brien sends El Prado over from Ireland

Lyric Fantasy's speed show earns highest accolades

BY MICHAEL SEELY

LYRIC Fantasy, Lord Carnarvon's pony-sized flying machine, remains on target for her attempt to become the first two-year-old filly to win the Nunthorpe Stakes after her six-length victory in the Newbury Sales Super Sprint Trophy on Saturday.

Michael Roberts is now prepared to face the prospect of reducing his weight in order to ride the Richard Hannon-trained two-year-old at 7st 10lb in York's five-furlong sprint championship.

"It will take me two weeks to bring my weight down gradually," said the season's leading jockey. "It's some time since I have ridden that light. But this filly will be worth the effort."

Afterwards Geoffrey Gibbs, the Jockey Club's senior handicapper, paid Lyric Fantasy a handsome tribute.

"She's rated at 121. Wharf, the July Stakes winner, is the top-rated colt at 116. She's the fastest two-year-old filly I've seen at this stage of the season. I would put her on a par with Marwell and Amaranda."

This win took Hannon to the top of the trainers' table in terms of first prize-money, as well as overall. He also saddled Princely Favour (third) and Surprise Offer (fifth).

"Lyric Fantasy is incredible," said the trainer. "She gets better with every race. She may not be very big, but just look at that backside. That's where she gets her power."

Another two-year-old to enhance his reputation was Silver Wizard, although it was only by a head that the 6-4 on favourite resisted the late attack of Port Lucaya, a Masdon Newbury Rose Bowl Stakes.

However, as Geoff Lewis pointed out afterwards, the colt has dominated his rivals throughout and then found extra to hold the challenger at bay. "Just like Silver Wisp, he's a very idle horse," said the trainer.

"He's much better off with a lead and he had to do all the donkey work. Don't forget Rodrigo De Triano only won this race narrowly last year. Silver Wizard now goes straight to York for the Gimcrack Stakes."

Frankie Demori, riding Adam Smith, dead-heated with Peto in the Mottos Donnington Castle Stakes but was fined £200 for leaving before the weigh-in signal. He then flew on to Newmarket where he completed a four-timer on Rose Indian, Masdon and Big Leap.

MANDARIN	THUNDERER
2.15 Princess Medora.	2.15 Miss Parkes.
2.45 Doctor Roy.	2.45 Forever Diamonds.
3.15 El Prado.	3.15 El Prado.
3.45 Bright Gem.	3.45 Cockham Ranger.
4.15 Elhasna.	4.15 Aahsaylad.
4.45 Elhasna.	4.45 Elhasna.
5.15 North of Westford.	5.15 No Quinlan.

RICHARD EVANS: 3.45 MISTERTOPOGG (nap). 4.15 Delany Girl. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.15 INNER CITY (nap).

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 DAILY RECORD MAIDEN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,284; 1m) (6 runners)
1 (1) 42-40 JANE 12 (G) M. J. Hannon 4-4-4. J. L. Piggott 57
2 (2) 40-40 J. P. MORGAN 7 (G) M. J. Hannon 4-4-4. M. J. Hannon 57
3 (3) 40-40 J. P. MORGAN 7 (G) M. J. Hannon 4-4-4. M. J. Hannon 57
4 (4) 40-40 J. P. MORGAN 7 (G) M. J. Hannon 4-4-4. M. J. Hannon 57
5 (5) 40-40 J. P. MORGAN 7 (G) M. J. Hannon 4-4-4. M. J. Hannon 57
6 (6) 40-40 J. P. MORGAN 7 (G) M. J. Hannon 4-4-4. M. J. Hannon 57

1991: 11-4 Elford Girl, 7-2 Princess Medora, Miss Parkes, 4-1 Rial, 5-1 J. P. Morgan, 7-1 Mist the Mist.

1991: PAPER DANCE 3-4-4 Collette (1-1) 5-1 South 5-1

1991: PAPER DANCE 3-4-4 Collette (1-1) 5-1 South 5-1

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24 SPORT

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN BARCELONA

THE impact of John Major's personal involvement with the Manchester Olympic bid for the Games of 2000 is apparent here in this city gripped with Olympic fever. A video interview with the prime minister, shown here to a large international press audience, has lifted Britain's chances as the "alternative" candidate to Peking and Sydney, the perceived favourites.

Tension between candidates is rising, even with 14 months to go before the vote

Prime minister encourages successful British bid for the 2000 Olympic Games

Major's enthusiasm raises Manchester's hopes

next year. The Sydney committee, uncharacteristically, lost its nerve over the weekend. With Berlin seemingly damaged by extreme press antagonism towards the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and with Milan making as yet a low-key effort, Manchester's credibility has risen sharply as the leading European contender. "Outstanding" was the comment made by several individual foreign observers of Manchester's presentation on Saturday.

Apart from Major's financial commitment by the gov-

ernment to supporting Britain's bid, his personality and interest in sport can carry substantial influence on the IOC. In his television interview, he comes across as a youthful head of state with a genuine and sincere rather than politically-forged love of sport. When he says "We are a sports-mad country that can stage the Games efficiently", the comment comes across as no jingoistic appeal but a calm, firm statement.

Major stresses that Britain is "one of the cradles of democracy" - a valid point in a politically troubled world.

Britain would like to be granted, Major argues, a proper opportunity to prepare for a Games for the first time, having previously been an emergency choice in 1908 and 1948.

Rod McGeoch, Sydney's lawyer-chairman and leader of a superb athlete-orientated campaign, found himself under crossfire for oblique criticism of Milan, Peking and Berlin. His jests were not malicious, but McGeoch, normally a cool hand, became visibly rattled under pressure of questions.

Behind the polite campaign

between rival cities, there is growing concern and breaches of the entertainment/hosting regulations relating to IOC members. Bob Scott, Manchester's chairman, is the nominated head of a self-disciplined committee of the bidding cities, but there are serious doubts whether the moral standards, grievously criticised over recent years, will hold good throughout the next year.

Newest entrant to the campaign is Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan. Their presentation was an odd cross be-

tween the recent stereotyped Soviet days and the Persian town council library committee, the picture only brightened by a dancer from Samarkand dressed in satin, beads, pearls and earrings as big as soup plates, who spent the duration of the chairman's expressionless 20-minute speech vigorously winking at the audience. No amount of central Asian sex appeal, I suspect, is capable of winning the vote.

The IOC executive board remains locked in debate with the United Nations, exchanging faxed letters, over the

participation of Serbian-Montenegrin competitors from former Yugoslavia, as "stateless" individuals. The IOC is pressing to include even those qualified in team sports, under the argument that individuals create a team which is an artificial arrangement of individuals as in a mixed-nation tennis doubles pair. The position of Serbia-Montenegro, and also Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, could be settled tomorrow but may remain unresolved before the Games open next Saturday. The IOC's proposal is that Serbia-

Montenegro would be excluded from the opening ceremony to demonstrate that their presence was non-representational.

Political upheaval has also struck down key IOC members. Marat Gramov, former second representative from the USSR, has lost his place by default, being unopposed as a second member by the Russian republic. Ivan Slavkov, of Bulgaria, elected president of their national Olympic committee, has had his passport confiscated, for a second time, to prevent his departure.

Prime supporter of Britain's bid for the 2000 Games

John Major talks to David Miller about his enthusiasm for sport and the government's decision to back publicly Manchester's bid for the Olympics

IT HAS been the habit of governments of Britain and the United States, almost alone among developed countries, not to become involved in international sports ventures or biddings for the Olympic Games. John Major has changed all that.

He has given enthusiastic and financial backing to Manchester's bid to stage the 2000 Olympics. Moreover, following a recent meeting at Downing Street with Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Major persuaded his colleagues at the recent G7 meeting to support the IOC's wish to include Yugoslavian competitors at Barcelona under a neutral flag (a matter still under debate).

DM: What has caused the change in attitude by you and the Conservative party?

JM: Manchester learned a lot from trying [for the 1996 Olympics] and they persuaded the government to give them more substantial backing this time. I believe they can win and, if they do, the whole country will welcome the Games as a wonderful way to celebrate the millennium.

DM: Can you be more precise on the plans for fiscal support if Manchester is elected?

JM: The government is committed to ensuring the necessary facilities are built, partly by private finance, partly by substantial public funding. Obviously, I cannot give you precise figures at this stage. Costs, sports and participating countries vary. We may see new sports for which we will need to provide new venues. We are funding further work on the bid to identify the requirement, who does it and what it will cost. But the goal is clear. I believe Manchester will provide a first-class home for all sports and all nations. The government will contribute to what is needed.

DM: The Games in Tokyo, Munich, Seoul and now Barcelona changed the perception of their country by foreigners. Could a Games in Manchester carry the same benefit for Britain?

JM: The Games would do an enormous amount for Manchester, the North West and for Britain as a whole. It would provide a showcase for technical expertise, our traditional hospitality and our ability to deliver.

DM: Would staging the Games in Britain have any bearing on relations with the European Community (EC)?

JM: England has already been chosen to host the 1996 European football champion-



Backing Britain: prime minister John Major and Bob Scott unite for the cause outside No. 10

ship, which is a great boost, showing confidence in our facilities and organisation. The Olympics would further promote Britain's image within the EC and throughout the world. The competition is tough, but I believe

Manchester will be hard to beat. We are going for gold, and I intend to persuade our friends in Europe that it is Manchester's turn.

DM: In what ways is Manchester a "City of the Future"?

JM: Manchester has a strong tradition for innovation, dating back to the industrial revolution. The city has consistently been at the forefront of major initiatives: the first railway station and the first computer were built in

Manchester. Now it is diversifying to create new initiatives. Manchester has a rich cultural, economic and sporting heritage: it will be the "city of drama" in 1994; and the proposal for a new concert hall for the Halle orchestra will

provide a venue worthy of the 21st century.

DM: Manchester was preferred to London as the British bid. What are the advantages to Britain of a successful bid by Manchester?

JM: Manchester 2000 is the British bid. I am delighted to have Britain backing a northern city. Manchester has enormous advantages in infrastructure and accessibility: the new ring road, the airport, the motorway network, the metro link system, all supported by the government, would help in getting athletes and spectators quickly to and from events.

DM: How will the government's grant aid be divided between urban regeneration and sport?

JM: The government has committed £55 million to the bid - £2 million for the bid itself and the remainder for construction of a velodrome and an Olympic multi-arena, and also for the purchase and preparation of the main stadium site. The area identified as stage Olympic events is a part of the city in need of regeneration, and we are working closely with the city council to identify priorities. The resources for this will come from main programmes, not the £55 million.

DM: What makes sport a significant factor in public life?

JM: Over half the population of this country participate in sport: most of us watch it or read about it. Sport plays a vital role in our lives: as a leisure activity, as a means of channelling the energy and enthusiasm of young people,

especially to help them overcome social and environmental disadvantages, as a focus for local and national pride, and as a means of enhancing the general health of the population.

DM: What experiences, playing or watching, created your love of sport?

JM: I've been a sportsman and fan from my earliest years. Although I seem only to be known for my love of cricket, I have a wider pedigree. As a boy, I played both football and rugby, golf has also been a part of my life. I last played when I worked in Nigeria, though finding snakes in the bunkers was a problem. I believe in competitive sport, and in the joy of sport. It enriches our lives. You need only to look at the Olympics to see that. Equally, you need only to look at a school sports day.

DM: Will the departments of national heritage and environment be involved in hosting visiting IOC members in the "city of drama"?

JM: Many IOC members will visit the North West and my ministerial colleagues will be involved. Government has to convey its enthusiasm for the Manchester bid and make sure the IOC is aware of our level of commitment.

DM: What can Britain do in assistance for developing countries?

JM: We are very conscious of their problems in sending teams - financial, and if Manchester wins, its committee is planning to make special efforts to assist those attending the Games.

Third gold medal provides inspiration for Redgrave

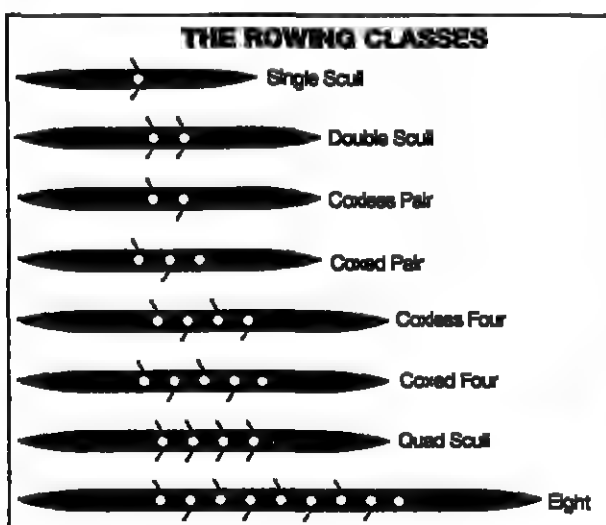


THIS year's rowing team is the largest to represent Britain in the Olympics Games.

Twenty-seven men and 18 women will compete in 11 classes and, before they left for an acclimatisation camp at Varese, Italy, Brian Armstrong, the international rowing manager, spoke of the possibility of three or four men's medals and two or three for the women "if it all goes right".

Even taking the conservative side of Armstrong's predictions, such a medal haul would be unprecedented, but few would argue that this team has experience and proven ability. As Terry Dillon, a member of the coxed four, said: "We have been there before." Sixteen of the team have competed in previous Olympic Games and hold seven Olympic medals.

Britain's No. 1 boat is the coxed pair of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent. They are the world champions, and Redgrave is aiming for his third successive Olympic gold. Redgrave, aged 30, and Pinsent, aged 21, experienced disruption in their early-sea-



son training, losing to the Searle brothers in a trial at Nottingham and failing at Essen, before Redgrave was found to be suffering from colitis. He eased up on training and received treatment. Somewhat untested since his recovery, the pair will have to be at their best to beat Germany (Holzenbein and Etinghausen) and Slovenia (Cop and Zveglj), who have excelled this season.

Armstrong's "if it goes right" comment could apply to the Searle brothers, Greg and

Jonny, in the coxed pairs. After defeating Redgrave and Pinsent in April, they have never quite hit the heights. They missed the "go" at Cologne regatta and suffered steering and illness problems at Essen.

At Lucerne, they finished fourth behind Poland, Germany and Romania, and allowing the world-class field to gain too much leeway in the first 1,000 metres. Both are junior world gold medal winners and senior bronze medal winners. The ability is there,



On the up: Gill, left, and Eyres, should fare well in the double sculls

and so, now, is the full-time help of their former Hampton guru, Steve Gunn, whose appearance at altitude training camp in early July transformed their performance.

The coxed four, which includes Terry Dillon and the same personnel which just missed a bronze medal in Vienna after dominating the earlier 1991 regattas, has failed to regain any significant international success this year, perhaps because the domestic selection procedure kept them more concerned with beating

rival British crews than foreign ones. The issue was decided at Lucerne, where the established combination finished fifth, and gained selection.

The women's team is spearheaded by Miriam Batten and Jo Turvey in the coxed pairs. Batten created a piece of British rowing history by winning a medal in Vienna last summer. Ali Gill and Annabel Eyres excelled in Lucerne with a bronze medal behind two German crews in the double sculls, and they

have clearly improved since their sixth place in Vienna last summer. The remarkable growth of women's rowing in Britain also means that the Olympic eight, a mixture of experience and youth and with Kate Brownlow at stroke, should make the final.

As for the fourth men's medal, Martin Cross, aged 34 and in his fourth Olympics, is in the men's eight and inspired his colleagues to a bronze medal in Vienna last year.

Mike Rosewell

Fox family thrives on unique occasion



FOR Richard Fox, the Olympic Games offer the chance to win the one title that has

chased him in slalom canoeing. Fox, aged 32, has won four K1 world events and three World Cups since 1981 but the white-water discipline has not been included in the programme since 1972.

Fox is not bitter about the lost opportunity to compete in the Games and he is looking forward to competing at Barcelona. It will be a unique family occasion. Fox's wife, Myriam Jerusalem, and the World Cup holder, will be representing France and one of her main rivals will be his sister, Rachel.

Another Briton who should be prominent is Gareth Marriott, who competes in the slalom Canadian singles, where he kneels and propels the boat with a single blade.

Both Marriott and Fox have to negotiate a series of gates over the 340 metre course with water swirling round them at speeds of up to 15 metres a second.

The white water events can be unpredictable. Shaun Pearce won the world K1 title for Britain last year, but finished only fourth in the trials and has been left out of the team.

He said: "I learnt at the world championships you can want something as much as you like but unless you 'do the business' you will not get it."

John Goodbody

THE BRITISH ROWING TEAM

Men

Coxless pair

MATTHEW PINSENT: Born: October 10, 1970, England. Ht: 6ft 5in. Wt: 145lb. 130lb. Occupation: student. Club: Leicester. Honours: world gold 1991, bronze 1989.

STEPHEN REDGRAVE: Born: March 23, 1962, Amersham. Ht: 6ft 6in. Wt: 155lb. 150lb. Occupation: sports consultant. Club: Leicester. Honours: Olympic gold 1988, world gold 1987, 1991, silver 1989, bronze 1990, Commonwealth gold 1986, 1990, 1991.

Coxed pair

GREG SEARLE: Born: March 20, 1973, Ashford. Ht: 6ft 6in. Wt: 155lb. 150lb. Occupation: student. Club: Leicester. Honours: Olympic gold 1988, world gold 1987, 1991, silver 1989, bronze 1990, Commonwealth gold 1986, 1990, 1991.

Coxed four

TERRY DILLON: Born: May 8, 1964, Septon. Ht: 6ft 5in. Wt: 145lb. 140lb. Occupation: teacher. Club: Leicester. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Coxed eight

SIMON BERRISFORD: Born: December 29, 1963, London. Ht: 6ft 5in. Wt: 145lb. 140lb. Occupation: rowing coach. Club: Leicester. Honours: coxed pair world silver 1989.

Coxed two

NOEL BURFITT: Born: December 17, 1966, Keynsham, Avon. Ht: 6ft 3in. Wt: 145lb. 140lb. Occupation: athlete. Club: Leicester. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Coxed four

PETER MUKHERJEE: Born: September 5, 1964, Bedford. Ht: 6ft 6in. Wt: 145lb. 140lb. Occupation: athlete. Club: Leicester. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Women

Coxless pair

MARTIN CROSS: Born: July 19, 1957, London. Ht: 6ft 2in. Wt: 145lb. 140lb. Occupation: teacher. Club: Thames. Honours: world bronze 1991.

JOANNE TURVEY: Born: July 6, 1968, Huddersfield. Ht: 5ft 7in. Wt: 115lb. 110lb. Occupation: student. Club: Leicester. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Coxless four

GILLIAN LINDSAY: Born: September 24, 1973, Paisley. Ht: 5ft 11in. Wt: 115lb. 110lb. Occupation: athlete. Club: Croydon. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Coxless eight

SUZANNE KIRK: Born: March 5, 1968, Huddersfield. Ht: 5ft 11in. Wt: 105lb. 100lb. Occupation: student. Club: Tideway. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Coxless ten

KIM THOMAS: Club: Weybridge. **ALISON BARNETT:** Club: Kingston. **Eight**

Coxless twelve

KATIE BROWNLOW: Born: August 16, 1964, Kitchingham. Ht: 5ft 6in. Wt: 105lb. 100lb. Occupation: athlete. Club: Thames. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Coxless sixteen

PHILIPPA CROSS: Born: July 7, 1965, Banbury. Ht: 5ft 10in. Wt: 105lb. 100lb. Occupation: athlete. Club: Thames. Honours: world bronze 1989.

Men

Coxless pair

MATTHEW PINSENT: Born: October 10, 1970, England. Ht: 6ft 5in. Wt: 145lb. 130lb. Occupation: student. Club: Leicester. Honours: world gold 1991, bronze 1989.

STEPHEN REDGRAVE: Born: March 23, 1962, Amersham. Ht: 6ft 6in. Wt: 155lb. 150lb. Occupation: sports consultant. Club: Leicester. Honours: Olympic gold 1988, world gold 1987, 1991, silver 1989, bronze 1990, Commonwealth gold 1986, 1990, 1991.

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Men	JAMES BLOCK: Born: January 30, 1968. Occupation: British Rail guardian.
KAYAK (slalom)	GRAHAM BURNS: Born: August 6, 1958, Oxford. Occupation: student.
RICHARD FOX: Born: June 5, 1960, Wrexham, Cheshire. Occupation: marketing consultant. Honours: World champion 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990.	SIMON PARSONS: Born: May 3, 1969. Occupation: revenue assistant.
MELVYN JONES: Born: January 28, 1964. Occupation: sales manager.	Women
HAN RASPIN: Born: March 21, 1967. Occupation: supply teacher.	KAYAK (slalom)
Canadian singles (slalom)	RICHARD FOX: Born: May 6, 1969. Occupation: student.
GARETH MARIOTT: Born: July 14, 1970, Oxford. Occupation: athlete/student.	KAREN LEE: Born: October 14, 1966. Occupation: athlete.
Mark World Cup champion 1991.	LYNN: Born: March: February 1971. Occupation: student.
MARK DELANEY: Born: July 13, 1964. Occupation: welder.	KAYAK (sprint racing)
Canadian doubles (slalom)	ALISON THOROGOOD: Born: Nov 30, 1962. Occupation: school teacher.
CHRIS ARDOWSMITH: Born: Nov 9, 1965. Occupation: computer tech.	ANDREA DALLAWAY: Born: October 14, 1970. Occupation: postman.
PAUL BRAIN: Born: June 28, 1964. Occupation: electrical engineer.	SARAH TROOP: Born: March 15, 1965. Occupation: school teacher.
IAIN CLOUGH: Born: May 22, 1965. Occupation: chemical engineer.	HILLARY DODD: Born: April 12, 1968. Occupation: student.
ANDREW CLOUGH: Born: January 5, 1970. Occupation: student.	Timetable
Canadian (sprint racing)	Slalom: Aug 1: Kayak trials (vt); Canoe slalom (vt). Aug 2: Kayak trials (vt); Canoe slalom (vt). Aug 3: Kayak trials (vt); Canoe slalom (vt). Aug 4: La Seda District 1250m from Village.
ERIC JAMESON: Born: August 11, 1961, Kitchingham. Occupation: construction manager.	Slalom: Aug 5: heats and repechages 1000m Kayak slalom (vt);

Long jump champion struggles

Morale boost for Robb on eve of Olympic departure

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

CURTIS Robb made his outing in the European Cup for under-23s look no more taxing than a training run last night as he dominated his final 800 metres race before departing for the Olympic Games.

Robb, the European junior champion who looks an outstanding prospect, went into the lead immediately and was never headed, when the Italian, Davide Cadoni, tried to pass him 300 metres from home. Robb found a new gear and coasted to victory unchallenged in 1min 49.47sec. It was good for his morale to experience the winning feeling again after he finished sixth in the grand prix at Crystal Palace ten days ago.

However, Yinka Idowu, the European junior long jump champion, leaves for Barcelona concerned for her form. Since jumping 6.66 metres in the United Kingdom champi-

onships last month, her best is 6.43. Yesterday, she was down to 6.20, finishing second behind Monica Toib, of Romania, who jumped 6.36.

What was wrong? "I have not the faintest idea," Idowu said. "I was feeling good and I do not know what happened." There will be no chance now to put it right in competition before the big day: that was her last before the Olympics.

All five Barcelona-bound British athletes active on the first day returned victorious, but none took the eye more than Paula Radcliffe, who, perhaps more than any of her teammates here, seems destined for Olympic stardom.

By 1996, Radcliffe should be ready not only for the British team but to present a challenge for honours. There is no fear in this young heart: aged 18, she showed scant respect for women up to four years older than herself.

Her victory in the 3,000 metres was impressive for many reasons: the way she controlled her opponents from the front, the way she kicked with 550 metres to go — rather as Yvonne Murray had to win the European 3,000 metres in 1990 — and then surged again 350 metres out just to end any ideas her pursuers may have had of catching her.

There is any icy chill about the Radcliffe finish: once she has made her move she will not look back. She did not when she won the junior world cross country title in March, nor again here, concentrating only on her run for the line. Her time, 9min 07.69sec, was some ten seconds outside her best.

Of those whose Olympic thoughts are more immediate, David Grindley was the most impressive. He dominated the 400 metres, running close to his best of 45.41sec on a windy day; his 45.57 was, he thought, worth close to 45.00.

Heading with Grindley to Barcelona pleased with their Saturday's work are Jason Livingston, not quick but victorious in the 100 metres, Steve Smith, winning the high jump while competing with a headache, Jason John, helping the sprint relay team to a victory, and Louise Fraser, who took the 400 metres hurdles in her first outing against international opposition.

Edinburgh's Woolen Mill, the winners of the competition in 1975, narrowly missed out on a place in the GRE Jubilee Cup final when they finished third in a semi-final yesterday.

Relays split US ranks

Narbonne, France: The US team management moved quickly yesterday to try to defuse selection controversies that threaten to disrupt the preparations of both men's Olympic relay teams.

Rumours that Carl Lewis would anchor the 4x100 metres team and Michael Johnson had been promised a place in the 4x400m quartet if it reached the final were not true, according to the team's head coach, Mel Rosen. He said that there was a pool of seven for both relays.

decide who will be on the teams. A decision has not been made. Lewis, the anchor man in last year's world championship gold medal-winning team, finished only sixth in the US 100 metres Olympic trials, although he is still eligible for the relay team, which has yet to have a practice session.

Johnson, the world 200 metres champion, opted not to run the 400 at the US trials but because of a change in the American rules he can be selected for the relay team. (Reuters)



Taking the lead: Warwick holds a narrow advantage over Baldi, his team-mate, during their race at Donington Park yesterday

Peugeot overshadow rivals

By A CORRESPONDENT

PEUGEOT dominated the world sports car championship race at Donington Park yesterday, finishing first and second in the race taking what may be an invincible lead in the chase for the overall championship.

After a close tussle between the team's two cars, the Peugeot team chief, Jean Todt, gave orders for Mauro Baldi and Philippe Alliot to win ahead of Derek Warwick and Yannick Dalmas.

For Baldi, it was a second victory at Donington: he won the race for Mercedes when it was last held here two years ago.

In the early stages of the 500km race, the fourth round of the championship, Derek Warwick held the lead with

the Toyota of Andy Wallace and Jan Lammers pushing the two French cars, but after the first pit stops, the Toyota challenge faded and all that was left was for the two Peugeots to proceed to victory.

Third place eventually went to the Toyota of David Brabham and Geoff Lees after the sister car, driven at the time by Lammers, spun off into a gravel trap when an oil line burst and covered the rear tyres. Fourth place was claimed by the Lola-Judd of Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Phil Almon.

"You never like to finish second, but we had a good race and I respect the decision of Jean Todt. At the beginning of the race, the car was

handling very badly, but we managed to cure that and it was good at the end," Warwick said.

In the junior FIA Cup section, the little Chamberlain team clinched the team title with their Spice car, although three rounds still remain. Similarly, Ferdinand de Lesseps cannot be beaten in the drivers' section, although he was helped by a fine drive by his teammate, Will Hoy.

RESULTS (125 laps, 502.8km): 1. M. Baldi (Peugeot), 2. D. Warwick (Peugeot), 3. D. Frentzen (Lola), 4. P. Almon (Lola), 5. J. Lammers (Toyota), 6. F. de Lesseps (Spice), 7. W. Hoy (Spice), 8. J. Brabham (Toyota), 9. J. Lammers (Toyota), 10. J. Lammers (Toyota), 11. J. Lammers (Toyota), 12. J. Lammers (Toyota), 13. J. Lammers (Toyota), 14. J. Lammers (Toyota), 15. J. Lammers (Toyota), 16. J. Lammers (Toyota), 17. J. Lammers (Toyota), 18. J. Lammers (Toyota), 19. J. Lammers (Toyota), 20. J. Lammers (Toyota), 21. J. Lammers (Toyota), 22. J. Lammers (Toyota), 23. J. Lammers (Toyota), 24. J. Lammers (Toyota), 25. J. Lammers (Toyota), 26. J. Lammers (Toyota), 27. J. Lammers (Toyota), 28. J. Lammers (Toyota), 29. J. Lammers (Toyota), 30. J. Lammers (Toyota), 31. J. Lammers (Toyota), 32. J. Lammers (Toyota), 33. J. Lammers (Toyota), 34. J. Lammers (Toyota), 35. J. Lammers (Toyota), 36. J. Lammers (Toyota), 37. J. Lammers (Toyota), 38. J. Lammers (Toyota), 39. J. Lammers (Toyota), 40. J. 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Accuracy the key to crucial Test

Mallender called up as England go for experience

By Alan Lee

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
NEIL Mallender has twice come close to making a Test debut on foreign soil, simply by being in the right place at the right time. Now that his chance has come at last, it is, more appropriately, to be made in his native Yorkshire and because he is the right man for a specific job.

Three weeks short of his 31st birthday, Mallender was not exactly in suspense over the prospects of his workaday career receiving elevation. But his selection, within a party of 13, reflects the peculiar demands of Headingley and of a fourth Test against Pakistan which England cannot afford to lose.

The principal requirement at Leeds, on a surface where uneven bounce is perennial and where the ball will seam and swing more than anywhere else on the Test circuit, is to be accurate. This has long been one of Mallender's virtues and, although there are many options within the 13, it will be a surprise if he does not play on what was for so many years his local ground.

Born near Doncaster, Mallender grew up in Humberston, but like so many from that part of the country he chose to come south for his cricket. He spent seven seasons with Northamptonshire and is into his sixth with Somerset, but it was his form for Otago, in New Zealand last winter, which impressed Graham Gooch.

England could have turned to the queue of younger seam bowlers headed by Bicknell,

Player	Age	Tests
G A Gooch (Essex, capt)	35	97
A J Stewart (Surrey)	29	20
M A Atherton (Leeds)	24	19
D A Smith (Hants)	28	34
D J Gower (Hants)	35	115
G A Hick (Worce)	28	10
M Ramprakash (Middlesex)	22	7
C C Lewis (Notts)	24	12
C R Ring (Essex)	33	20
T A Munton (Worce)	26	0
N A Mallender (Somerset)	30	0
P J Newport (Worce)	29	3
J H Childs (Essex)	40	2

and Cork. But Gooch was true to character. Having confirmed that he will lead the side to India this winter, he wanted an old sweat on whom he could depend in a game where there can be no margin for error.

The selectors have rewarded results by choosing Phil Newport and John Childs, the leading wicket-takers this season with 52 apiece. Either or both of them may be omitted on Thursday, and if Childs is included, it will be the first time in five years that England have played a spin bowler at Headingley.

If Mallender's selection is pragmatic more than progressive, Childs is doubly so. He will be 41 next month, and although enjoying a purple season with Gooch's Essex, his return to the England squad four years after his two previous Tests, can be no more than a temporary measure. Phil Tunnell is not much fit for a five-day Test, but he is confident of being ready for the Oval a fortnight hence.

Phil Newport has not shown his true worth in any of his

three Tests, including a night-marish experience at Headingley against the 1989 Australians. But he bowls the outswinger as well as anyone in the country and, if conditions look like favouring swing rather than seam, he may be preferred to Munton.

Recalling Botham, having jettisoned him on grounds of suspect form and fitness only a match earlier, would have been a nostalgic gamble, but the selectors have been unable to locate anyone else for a dual role and it seems likely, they wish to reinforce the batting, either Ramprakash or Hick will go in as low as No. 7.

Hick's plundering of county bowling has saved him again, but Ramprakash's case is a curiosity. Out second ball at Edgbaston and twelfth man at Lord's, he was mysteriously usurped by both Gower and Atherton for Old Trafford but returns now in the sort of one-off situation which may have better suited Lamb.

Predictably, for it has happened too often before, the specialist wicketkeeper has been sacrificed in times of need. This time, however, the sympathy for Russell, who has not been at his best, is equalled by concern for Stewart.

Against odds and expectations, he has made a resounding success of opening and, in this series, has often looked the best player on either side. Now, burdened with the gloves and presumably with an option to drop down the order, the self-confidence of his newly disciplined game has been put in jeopardy.



The young master intent on becoming a celebrity: Faldo in 1976

Daly races round a course he says he cannot yet play

By Our Sports Staff

JOHN Daly was wasting no time. Barely waiting to address the ball, he would blast it down fairways and then march after it, leaving his fans gasping in amazement — and for breath.

The burly US PGA champion raced around the course on the final round of the Open Championship yesterday an hour faster than anyone else and his gallery had to run to keep up with him.

With nothing to play for and a playing partner who was not in the tournament, Daly just wanted to finish his round and leave.

"The war's over," he said, indicating his dislike of British links courses. "I'm definitely not good at playing golf courses like these."

"I guess I'll just have to learn. It's gonna take many years of golf to get used to playing these courses," Daly said before departing for a two-day exhibition tournament in Austria. "I don't know

whether I'll be back." First out because he had the worst three-round total of the 75 finishers, Daly had 17-year-old Scottish pro David Drysdale playing with him to confirm his score.

He finished in only two hours, 25 minutes with a 75 to total 298 — 14 over par.

"It was different," he told reporters. "At least I didn't have to wait, which was nice. You guys will have about an hour and a half for the next one to come in." The next pair actually came in 65 minutes later.

The rest of the field went out in pairs, but Daly was left on his own and his final round was a mixture of slick and sloppy.

Going out, he went birdie-bogey-birdie-bogey and eventually reached the turn in 37.

Coming back, he was just as erratic with one birdie nestling among four bogeys. At the 17th, he slotted in a 13-foot birdie putt to relieve the frustration of the round and took a bow to an approving, 400-strong gallery who had followed all around the course. "The fans have been real nice, real polite," he said. "I've had a good time with them."

Now he goes back to work on his defense of the PGA title at Bellevere, in St Louis next month.

Last year he went into the tournament as ninth alternate after a series of dropouts. This time he goes there as defending champion but says he will approach the tournament with the same attitude.

"It won't be any different as far as I'm concerned. I'll just go out and play golf," he said. "That's what I did last year."

First, he has got to get the aches and pains of British links golf out of his system. "My wrists and arms hurt and, I guess, so does my pride a little."

"I'm glad I made the cut, but the weekend was kind of embarrassing," Daly said.

Faldo had won 11 times in Europe and once in the United States. That, however, was not enough. He was obsessed with becoming the Open champion and he thirsted for the other three major championships, too. The image of Nicklaus remained in his mind. Faldo could not cope with being good. He wanted to be great; he wanted people to talk of having seen him play in his heyday.

Faldo is leaving his imprint on the game. He is the role model he yearned to become because youngsters everywhere have learned that dedication is another word for fame and glory. He still believes he has plenty to prove. If only to himself.

He soon turned his dreams to reality by winning three PGA championships in four years from 1978. His public image was that of the golden boy of golf. Yet in the locker room, he was regarded as being almost ruthless in his quest for fame.

He once reported Sandy Lyle for putting sticking plaster on his putter to stop the reflected glare from the sun while playing on the Safari circuit. Lyle was disqualified and fined: the two will never be friends.

Meanwhile, Faldo's career continued to prosper, although behind the scenes there were problems. He had married Melanie Rockall, a journalist, but she could not cope with his devotion to duty on the practice range, and they divorced.

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Obsession that was the making of a champion

MITCHELL PLATTS

Nick Faldo has pursued perfection with such single-mindedness that his craving for universal respect has often met with resentment.

That was always likely to be the case. Faldo has sacrificed friendships to secure fame. He shunned his class-mates at school in Welwyn Garden City because they lacked his commitment. Faldo would return home in tears, not because of a playground brawl but because of defeat on the football or cricket pitches. Then, as now, he hated to lose.

Nicholas Alexander Faldo was born on July 18, 1957, an only child, so perhaps he was prepared for a lonely passage through life. Greg Norman has spoken of Nigel Mansell being the brother he never had; Faldo has no need for such a substitute.

The closest he ever came to having one was in fantasy-land: he used to play two balls at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club so he could pretend he was pitted against Jack Nicklaus. In fact, it was seeing Nicklaus on television playing in the Masters that first attracted Faldo to golf; since that Easter Sunday in 1971, he has been addicted.

Joyce, his mother, not only took Nick to purchase his first half-set of clubs, she also booked him six lessons with the assistant professional and drove him to competitions as his game progressed. His father, George, an accountant with ICI, encouraged his son's passion and in 1975 Faldo won a dozen tournaments, including the English amateur championship and the British youths.

He immediately turned professional, impatient for a life away from the council-house world in which he grew up. Faldo is proud of his parents but he has never camouflaged his desire to better himself. The only other job he ever had was as an apprentice carpet-fitter, and he was never going to make that his trade.

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Perfectly prepared for Essex

By Ivo Tennant

THE square at Southchurch Park, Southend, is not what it was. That much can safely be said in light of the runs and centuries amassed in this festive week. Evidently, the upshot of Essex having 25 points deducted for improper preparation in 1989, a penalty that cost them the Britannia Assurance championship, has been a reversion to producing the kind of pitch on which the Australians once made 722 runs in a day.

Thus declarations have to be finely judged. On Saturday, Essex batted only until they had gained maximum bonus points, Gooch making a century off 93 balls through an aggression that he scarcely masked. He declared 103 runs behind, in the expectation, no doubt, of being set a target by Sussex today. Yet after their victories in run chases over Middlesex at Il-

ford and against Gloucestershire last week, who dares leave Essex anything at all?

Another victory and there will surely be a contender for their title. At least Hampshire, whose form inexplicably has been in reverse proportion to what could have been expected after winning the Benson and Hedges Cup, are in a meaningful position at Portsmouth. They lead Glamorgan by 210 runs with seven wickets in hand. Runs here for Maynard and wickets for Shine.

Northamptonshire, whose perennial hopes of winning the championship are nourished by their present standing of third place in the table, were unable to make Lancashire follow on at Northampton. This was the result of their own failings, namely dropped catches. Five went down, including three in the slips. Hegg, who made his maiden

century on this ground five years ago, almost single-handedly ensured there would still be a contest today, finishing with an unbeaten 76. There could yet be a positive result, for the relaxed pitch is an unpredictable one.

As to century-makers, the England captain was not alone. Jones made his third century for Durham in a week, batting in much pain after being struck by Waqar Younis in their match against Pakistan last week. His commitment to his new, fledgling county has been almost tangible. They still have, though, much to do to avoid defeat by Nottinghamshire. Meanwhile, Hick was taking 168 for Worcestershire off Middlesex at Uxbridge, emphasising again what a prolific run-maker he is at this level. Would that he could do the same for England.

POLO

Merlos brothers secure victory for Black Bears

By John Watson

THE largest crowd of Cowdray Park spectators thronged the Lawns Ground to see Urs Schwarzenbach's Black Bears defeat Bill Bond Elliott's Santa Fe by ten goals to nine yesterday to carry off the supreme championship trophy of the British Open, the Cowdray Park Gold Cup.

There was nothing to choose between the pony powers of these well-mounted quartets, and both played off the tournament's top-team aggregate handicap of 22. Yet Black Bears just showed the edge throughout.

The winning factor was the brilliant mutually supporting play of the Black Bears back, Martin Brown, with the Merlos brothers, Pete and Sebastian.

Occupying the three and two positions, it seemed, too, that this Argentine duo often

got more pace out of their ponies and turned them faster than their opponents. Although Santa Fe failed to show quite as good team cohesion, they were never far behind.

They trailed 6-9 at the close of the fifth chukka, but enjoyed an excellent sixth, with Marcos Heguy and the New Zealander, Cody Forsyth, both finding the Bears' flags again.

C. S. Brooks (received 1) beat Pendell 10-7 to win the Ashton Cup. Royal Pehang won the Jack Gannon Trophy, beating Hildon 11-7, and Kennelot defeated Cowdray Park 6-4 for the Tatham Cup.

BLACK BEARS: 1, U Schwarzenbach (1), 2, S Merlos (8), 3, P Merlos (8); BACK: M Brown (4). SANTA FE: 1, T Skarzynski (2), 2, C Forsyth (8), 3, M Heguy (10); BACK: W Bond Elliott (1).

PENDELL: 1, A Hogg (5), 2, Heguy (7), 3, E Heguy (10); BACK: P Scott (1). ROYAL PEHANG: 1, J Gifford (2), 2, A Gifford (6), 3, O Finneston (8); BACK: A Buchanan (4).

BOWLS

Clear success for Wales

WELSH juniors, taking a leaf out of their seniors' book, won the inaugural British Isles under-25 international series in Cumbria yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

Beating Scotland by 30, and Ireland by 12, Wales struggled desperately to beat England after opening up a 12-shot gap with only a handful of ends remaining. England closed the gap to two

shots with one end left to play, and a measure was called to determine whether Nicky Jones had made the two shots that would have earned to earn a tie. England lost the measure, and Wales prevailed by a single. Barry Evans was the only Welsh skip to win all three games.

Results, page 25

Lee earns applause at the last

By John Hennessy

DAREN Lee, a Wansstead amateur, strode proudly up the 18th fairway to warm applause at Muirfield yesterday. He had heard what a memorable experience it was but it had even surpassed his expectations.

"It was absolutely brilliant," he said, still a little shell-shocked.

He had already won the silver prize awarded to the leading amateur in the Open Championship, being the only one of five to beat the 36-hole cut, so there was no competitive incentive to push him.

Not for him, not this year, the chance to dip his fingers in

the pot of prize-money. He had therefore set himself the target of a closing round of par 71, but as he honestly acknowledged, "I didn't play well enough, specially on the greens."

Even so he traded blow for sturdy blow with Wayne Riley before a hook off the 14th tee let the Australian Open champion draw ahead for the last time. Lee scored 76 and finished on 293, nine over par.

He had, he said, felt tired these last three days, which is hardly surprising, considering he suffers from the ME virus and had had his last injection

three weeks ago. He had wanted to be strong for the regional qualifying competition at Orsett a fortnight ago. He could not have foreseen that six more demanding rounds would lie ahead. He came through the final qualifying at Dunbar, as he had done at Orsett, after a play-off and he comfortably survived the cut at Muirfield.

If yesterday was something of a disappointment in terms of scoring, he will not readily forget that 72nd hole. Riley belied his hard-bitten reputation by holing out first and leaving Lee to savour the brilliant moment.

there, and dropped a shot on the next from five feet. He bogeyed the 14th, too, and it was with a rueful air that Woosnam plucked his ball out of the hole.

Still, there were three birdies along the way, and he was happy, at least, to birdie two of the last three holes to leave Muirfield a slightly happier man, having closed with a level-par 71 for a total of 279, five under par, to finish tied for fifth place.

"I'm happy overall, but I just can't get the putting right," he said. "I even tried putting cack-handed on a couple out there and I just bolted them past the hole. I was weird."

Gordon Brand Jr had a touch of the collywobblers himself on the back nine, after dropping only one shot on the outward half. He went bogey, bogey, double-bogey from the

14th, but finished by putting red figures on his card on the last two holes to finish level with Woosnam after a 74.

"I saved myself at the end," Brand said. "I wouldn't be in a

fit state to talk to anybody if I hadn't. At least I'll see the road when I drive home — I'll not have tears in my eyes after a finish like that."

The third member of the British contingent to finish on five under was Malcolm Mackenzie, the genial Yorkshireman now based in London.

Mackenzie had a 71, four birdies being offset by a similar number of bogeys. After three-putting the 3rd from 25 feet, he rattled in a 12-footer on the 4th for a birdie and got another with two putts from 15 feet on the 5th, where he missed an eagle by the width of a cigarette paper.

And finally, there was the curious case of Peter Mitchell. A relentlessly cheerful Londoner, he does not really care for the occasional solemnity of Open Championship week, and was not going to enter this

year but for the late intervention of his caddie, Dean Wilson.

On the last day for entries Wilson said he fancied a trip to the Open. Mitchell did not, but said he would toss for the entry. The coin landed in Wilson's favour, they came to Scotland, and Mitchell acquitted himself well — until the last hole, where he bunkered his tee-shot, had to come out virtually sideways with a six-iron, and from that moment on had no chance of saving his par. However, he still managed to finish with a 71 and a total of 283.

He left before the end, thinking he had missed the top 25, which would have given him automatic qualification for next year's championship. It will be a nice surprise when he picks up his paper this morning and discovers that he was joint 22nd.

Brand: late recovery



Brand: late recovery

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● CRICKET 26
● GOLF 27

THE TIMES SPORT

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THE TIMES MONDAY JULY 20 1992

Pressure tells as Cook puts in late bid for glory at Muirfield

Faldo falters on way to Open triumph

By Mitchell Phillips
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo won the 121st Open Championship yesterday following a confrontation of such intensity that he was reduced to tears on the 18th hole at Muirfield. Faldo could not camouflage his emotions following an epic duel which took him to breaking point on the course of the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers.

He started out four shots ahead, gave them away and even fell two shots behind before rallying to finish with a 73 for a total of 272, 12 under par, to edge out the American, John Cook (70), by one shot.

Faldo was still quivering as he was presented with the silver claret jug for the third time to give him his fifth major championship in six years. He has also won the Masters twice.

"I can't believe I'm standing here again with this jug in my hands," he said. "I owe everyone in the crowd a large scotch for their support. I'm not sure that I would have come through without it."

"I knew it was going to be tough, I made it tough, I made the odd mistake. I was unable to enjoy the 18th hole unfortunately because I was grinding out there like hell."

What should have been a simple scenario became one of titanic proportions because Faldo contrived to lose his way, dropping three shots in four holes from the 11th, as Cook launched a fierce challenge with three birdies at the 12th, 15th and 16th.

Faldo took 37 shots to play the outward half which was less than impressive, but still good enough for him to retain a healthy cushion ahead of Steve Pate, who like Cook started out four shots behind, and Cook.

The two Americans were positively generous to Faldo, who was 35 years old on Saturday. Cook took seven at the 9th by driving out of bounds over the grey wall from which moments later Pate was compelled to take a penalty drop on his way to a six.

Faldo appeared to be in command even though the occasion itself was bound to place enormous pressure on him. Yet his game for no apparent reason suddenly became as capricious as the conditions. The sparkle left him to be replaced by a solemn glare as the sun intermittently popped its head from behind scudding clouds which brought the odd squall.



Heading for glory: Faldo and Sunesson, his caddy, stride up the 18th fairway to receive the plaudits of the crowd yesterday

His problems began at the 11th where he dragged his second shot into a greenside bunker from where he took three to get down. Then his putter misbehaved at the 13th where his second attempt from less than three feet comfortably missed the hole.

Faldo's resilience was being examined only three weeks after he had forfeited a two-shot lead with five holes to play in the French Open. Then he hit his drive at the 14th into a fairway bunker and stood almost motionless on the tee. "I couldn't believe what was happening," he said. "I was negative at the 11th. I mucked-up at the 13th and told myself this was getting stupid and when I saw the ball at the 14th disappear into a bunker I just wondered what

was going on." Faldo walked off the 14th green with a five, stared at the leaderboard and realised he was two strokes behind Cook. Pate was also on the retreat but Cook had advanced with putts of 17 feet, eight feet and 20 feet for birdies at the 12th, 15th and 16th.

So Faldo stood on the 15th tee at 5.25, almost 48 hours to the minute from when he had taken the lead, looked into the distance, gathered his thoughts and told himself that it was time to play the best four holes of his life.

The five-iron approach which he struck to three feet for a birdie at the 15th enhanced his prospects although ahead of him it appeared that Cook, aged 35, from Toledo, Ohio, had the

First round
Out: 544 334 334 = 33
In: 344 244 354 = 33
Total = 66
Second round
Out: 444 343 443 = 33
In: 343 333 354 = 31
Total = 64

Third round
Out: 444 254 346 = 35
In: 343 344 344 = 34
Total = 69
Fourth round
Out: 544 254 346 = 37
In: 454 453 344 = 35
Total = 72

Open Championship within his grasp as he chased a long iron from out of the rough onto the green at the 17th.

In 1987 Paul Azinger, another American, finished with a six and a five, leaving Faldo the winner, but Cook appeared most unlikely to do the same. However, at the 17th he walked off the green with a five, after taking three

puts from 28 feet, missing from less than two feet, he did, without question, place pressure on himself. Then it became a case of shades of Azinger as he took five at the 18th. Faldo had saved par from the back of the green at the 16th and when he heard the muffled ahead as he settled over a long putt at the 17th he knew full well that the

ball was firmly back in his court. He two-putted for a birdie and with that regained the lead with one hole to play.

There is no player in the world better equipped to make a par at the last to win a major championship and Faldo did just that with two glorious shots, a driver and a three-iron, and two putts from 30 feet.

"I trundle that first putt down to the hole and I can't tell you how glad I was to see it finish one foot away," he said. "I was a wreck by then. I thought I had blown it and there I was shaking over a one foot putt for the Open. I didn't want it to be any longer — my legs were shaking."

Faldo took his time, tapped the ball into the hole and from that moment his one task was

to talk as he fought to keep back the tears.

Cook accepted he had cast away the chance to be the Open champion but he was magnanimous in defeat.

Jose Maria Olazábal put behind him a variety of personal and professional problems to compile a final round of 68 with which he claimed third place on 274, two ahead of Pate (73).

Yet the afternoon belonged to Faldo because he came back from the precipice to achieve yet another famous victory with which he established himself as the undisputed champion of the world.

Making of a champion, page 27
Woodsman's battle, page 27

Reluctant member of elite club

JOHN Cook smiled through the pain at Muirfield last night and admitted: "I blew it." The Californian will go down in Open history along with his compatriot, Doug Sanders, as the man who missed a tiny putt to lose the most coveted title in golf.

Cook, aged 34, had Nick Faldo, and his first major, at his mercy at the 17th, but allowed a two-footer, for a birdie, to slide past the hole. "I feel I let this one slip away," Cook said. "I hadn't been on this plateau before like Nick Faldo has and I guess I got a little too excited. I wanted to get the job done and maybe got a little too fast. It was my mistake and I'll learn from it — I'll have to."

"I thought I had made that first putt for eagle on 17 and when the ball went past the hole it started to break. I hit the return a little to the right but it wasn't a good stroke. On the 18th, I had 200 yards to the flag which is usually a three-iron for me, but with the wind in my face I took a two. I knew in my mind it was the wrong club, but I hit it anyway."

Nick Faldo has been threatened with legal action by Stylo Matchmaker Golf, with whom he has a four-year contract which ends later this year, for not wearing their golf shoes during the Open Championship. Michael Ziff, the general manager of Stylo Matchmaker Golf, said: "We did not take out an injunction this week because we did not want to affect his chances, but we did want him to win wearing our shoes. I would hope the matter does not go to the courts."

It's amazing how something so small can mean so much.



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		Muirfield: Par 71 (6,970 yards); Outward nine — 36 (3,518 yards); Inward nine — 35 (3,452 yards)																			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md
272 N Faldo	66	64	68	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	3	4	73
273 J Cook	68	67	70	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	7	4	4	3	3	4	3	2	5	70
274 J-M Olazábal	70	67	68	5	3	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	68
275 S Pate	64	70	68	4	5	3	4	4	3	3	4	6	4	4	4	3	5	3	3	4	73
276 A Wagne	67	72	70	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	5	70
279 M MacKenzie	71	67	70	4	4	5	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	71
279 R Karlsson	70	68	70	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	2	4	4	71
279 I Woodsman	65	73	70	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	2	4	71
279 G Brand Jr	65	68	72	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	4	4	5	2	5	5	4	3	4	74
279 D Hammond	70	65	70	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	4	6	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	74
279 E Els	66	68	70	5	5	4	3	6	3	4	4	6	4	3	4	5	3	3	4	5	74

Compiled by Mel Webb

		FINAL SCORES FROM																			
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md	md
272 N Faldo	66	64	68	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	3	3	4	73
273 J Cook	68	67	70	5	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	7	4	4	3	3	4	3	2	5	70
274 J-M Olazábal	70	67	68	5	3	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	68
275 S Pate	64	70	68	4	5	3	4	4	3	3	4	6	4	4	4	3	5	3	3	4	73
276 A Wagne	67	72	70	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	70
279 M MacKenzie	71	67	70	4	4	5	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	71
279 R Karlsson	70	68	70	5	4	4	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	2	4	4	2	4	4	71
279 I Woodsman	65	73	70	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	5	4	2	4	71
279 G Brand Jr	65	68	72	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	4	4	5	2	5	5	4	3	4	74
279 D Hammond	70	65	70	3	5	3	3	5	5	3	4	6	5	5	4	3	4	4	4	4	74
279 E Els	66	68	70	5	5	4	3	6	3	4	4	6	4	3	4	5	3	3	4	5	74

Compiled by Mel Webb

Olympic dream dies for Leng

VIRGINIA Leng, one of the favourites for the individual three-day event gold medal in Barcelona, has had to withdraw from the Olympic Games after an injury to her horse, Master Craftsman.

The 12-year-old gelding, on which Leng was runner-up at Badminton in May, sprained the fetlock joint on his near-side on Friday at Badminton, where the team is having a final training session before flying to Barcelona tomorrow.

Leng, who decided last month that her reserve horse, Welton 1400m, was too young to go to Barcelona, will be replaced by Karen Dixon and Get Smart, winners of the bronze medal at the European championships last year.

Leng said: "I am obviously devastated and very disappointed. However, it is fortunate that we have a very experienced reserve rider. I wish the team every success."

Her words hide the emotion of the most disappointing moment in her golden career. A member of every British championship team from 1981 until 1990, Leng, aged 37, has been beaten by bad luck for three years.

"Crazy", on which she won the individual bronze in Seoul and her third European title in 1989, missed most of the next two years through injury. A triumphant comeback at Badminton raised hopes of a gold medal.

Even without Leng, the British will start as favourites. Jane Holderness-Roddam, champion of selection, said: "We are obviously very disappointed not to have Ginny in the team. But we all feel very confident that, with the same gold-medal winning team as we had at the European championships last year, we have an equally strong chance of bringing back medals."

The other team members are Ian Stark, the European champion, with other Murphy, himself or Glenbourne, Richard Walker, the European silver medal winner, with Jenna and Mary Thomson, with her Badminton winner, King William.

James Mason has resigned as chairman of the British dressage group and of the dressage selection committee. Her resignation follows the committee's much criticised decision to exclude Jennie Loriston-Clarke, the most experienced British dressage rider, from the Olympic team.

Making of a champion, page 27
Woodsman's battle, page 27

Sponsors' identity imminent

WITH the season less than a month away, Rick Parry, the chief executive of the Premier League, expects to have the sponsorship negotiations ready for completion when he reports back to the club's meeting at Lancaster Gate next Monday. (Peter Ball writes.)

The Premier League had hoped that it would be able to follow the example of the World Cup and have a group of eight main sponsors across a wide range of products. There were, however, strong indications yesterday that the Ford Motor Company would be the main sponsor, with the League to be renamed the Ford Premier League, a title which would bury the Football Association's nominal association with its offspring.

The "menu" idea is still being negotiated, with Coca-Cola and Bass both believed to be on the point of committing themselves. But they would be in competition with individual club sponsorships and the need for a guarantee of "clean" grounds for the sponsor's advertisements — almost certainly makes that idea impracticable this season.

Instead, it seems likely that the League might have to go along with one named sponsor and a maximum of three or four other associated sponsors. A sponsorship giving the sponsor recognition in the title seems inevitable. The presence of competing brewery club sponsorships may have ruled out Bass, but Coca-Cola is believed to be doing a cheaper £10m-a-year deal with BSkyB to sponsor the 60 live Premier League matches alongside a place among the "menu" sponsors.

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Olympic dream dies in London



FRANCE p5
Discovering
the secrets of
the French
kitchen



LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY JULY 20 1992

EDUCATION p7
Prepared for
survival — the
success of
prep schools



Publish and be remaindered

Britain's bookshops are quiet. Have we stopped reading?
Derwent May
goes behind the counter and finds a furious argument raging

Human beings are by no means natural readers. Psychological experiments have recently proved it. When people look at a page or a paragraph, they unconsciously weigh up the likely benefits of reading it against the likely effort (according to the *New Scientist* last month). And they never read a word more than is necessary.

I conveyed this research to an elderly bookseller with a shop near me. "Good God," he said, "I've known that for the last 50 years!"

Footfall in the bookshops, to use the trade jargon, is certainly very soft at the moment. The recession has hit them hard. And what booksellers are saying echoes what the psychologists have discovered: "Customers are only buying the books they need" — books for study, travel guides.

Julian Rivers, the marketing director of the Dillons bookshop chain, says that, with exceptions such as Andrew Morison and Melvyn Bragg, it is the classic hardback list that is really suffering in the shops — novels, history, biography, all now costing between £14.99 and £17.99. As for coffee-table books, such as glossy cookery books published at £25 to £35, there is hardly any hope for them at all — "but they make marvellous remainderers at £10".

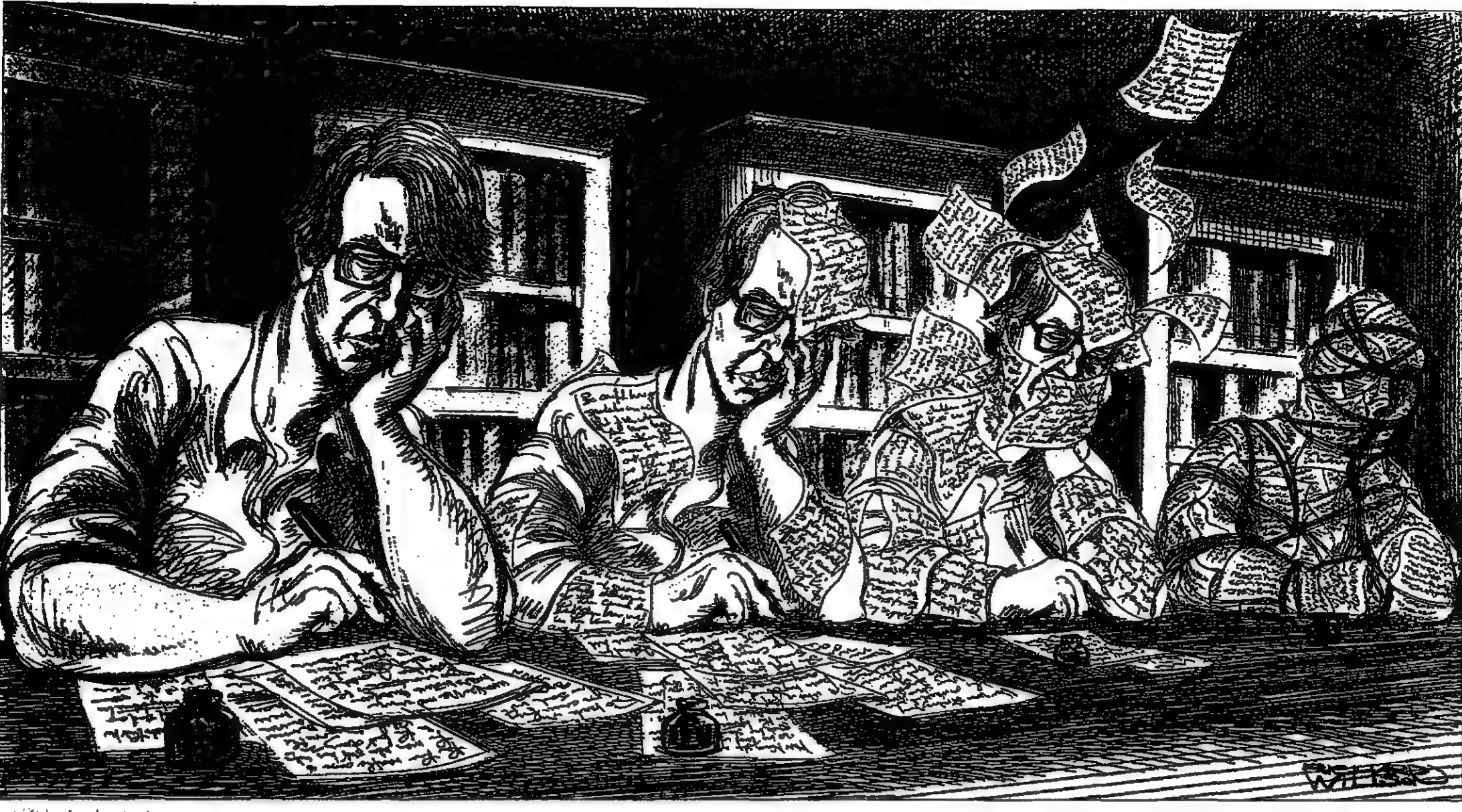
Every week the best-seller lists go on appearing in the newspapers. But they are misleading: at a time like this, a book can get into the list with a sale of no more than 300 copies in the week. Where the customers are queuing up this summer is at the video shop next door, where they can rent a great old movie for a fiver — a third of the price of a new novel.

As a result, returns have been pouring back from the bookshops to the publishers. The managing director of Penguin, Trevor Glover, says there are so many you would think the bookshops were printing them. There have even been (and a publisher's voice will rise to a small scream when he says this word) *unauthorised* returns.

Dillons, in particular, have been accused of sending back unauthorised returns — so I asked Terry Maher, the ebullient chairman of Dillons, what these wicked objects really are, and whether he has been guilty of handling them.

He threw the blame, if there was any, back on the publishers. "The point is that the publishers' reps are supposed to come into the bookshops and sign for books we want to send back. We give them 14 days' notice of our intention to return copies, then another warning after seven days, and if a rep has still not turned up in the bookshop by the end of the 14 days, we feel entitled to go ahead. That's all that's meant by the dreadful word 'unauthorised'."

Oddly enough, the great rival chain to Dillons, the Waterstones group, has just adopted exactly the opposite policy. It has made a deal with several publishers, such as Faber and Bloomsbury, not to return certain books at all. Instead



of taking books on a sale-or-return basis in the customary way, they have signed a firm sale agreement. They will have to judge the market carefully, because if they cannot sell the books they will be stuck with them. In return, of course, they are getting better discounts on the books.

Tim Waterstone, the head of the firm, is very pleased with the scheme. "It brings to an end the sloppy, lucky business of overbuying, then not selling, and then all the cost of sending the books back and the damage done to the copies with all that shuffling about," he said. "It requires us to use our skills and take on quantities that we know we will sell."

But Mr Maher was scornful and he came back to his pet hatred, the Net Book Agreement, which prevents booksellers from cutting the prices of books. (The recent Brussels judgment on the matter does not look as if it is going to change things much in Britain, since it seems to apply mainly to sales from one country to another, such as Britain to Ireland.) "This Waterstones scheme might be successful if there was no NBA and they could drop the prices of books they couldn't sell. As it is, they'll just be left with hundreds of unsold books." Should he complain?

Where all the booksellers seem to agree is that the publishers get it wrong. Mr Waterstone said it was ridiculous for publishers to be bringing out 6 or 7 per cent more titles in the middle of a recession — which is about the total increase over this time last year. "Ludicrous pluralism" he called it.

Mr Rivers complained that the only thing publishers could think of doing when they were selling fewer books was to put up the price. "They're not sensitive to the mar-

ket, only to their own costs. They've paid an author an advance, they still not had a real success, the biographies that just about pay their way in a good year, books for which the publisher has a personal liking but no great hopes, and so on. It is sometimes forgotten that most publishing houses are geared to producing a certain number of new books a year — around 80, perhaps, in a medium-size imprint — and unless the publishers are very lucky, some of those books are going to do little more than make a contribution to overheads.

It is in these rough areas that the myth is going to swing. In fact it is swinging already. The Society of Authors is a great conglomerate of authors famous and unknown and everything in-between. Many of its members were at the Authors' Fair in Oxfordshire last week, and there were quite a few tears falling as they reported contracts for new books cancelled, or books rejected by publishers who had hitherto been enthusiastic. "We'd have loved to publish it two years ago, darling," several authors had been told.

To the reading public, does this matter? I doubt it. All novel reviewers will tell you that apart from a few very good novels and the downmarket rubbish, most of the books they get are well-written, with good characterisation and plot and

bottom. In between are the third or fourth novels of authors who have still not had a real success, the biographies that just about pay their way in a good year, books for which the publisher has a personal liking but no great hopes, and so on. It is sometimes forgotten that most publishing houses are geared to producing a certain number of new books a year — around 80, perhaps, in a medium-size imprint — and unless the publishers are very lucky, some of those books are going to do little more than make a contribution to overheads.

Some successful newer publishing houses have, in fact, built themselves up without really having a "mid-list". Tim Hely Hutchinson, of Headline Books, was quite the most cheerful of publishers I spoke to last week. His firm has tried always to tailor its books to the market, not just throw them at it hopelessly.

He believes that many publishers have simply become far too slack. When he worked at Macmillan's, he found some old correspondence between the firm and Thomas Hardy. "They never hesitated to send a book back to Hardy if they didn't think he'd got it right," he said, "and he'd always make the changes they wanted."

Does this mean that, with a few exceptions, we are going to see nothing but bland, homogenised, packaged books from now on? Mr Haycraft fears it. "The mid-list — that's all the books we really want to read," he says. "And if that goes..."

The future is unlikely to be quite that grim. There'll always be a mid-list, because that is also where the unexpected sellers spring from — the second or third novel that really is going to be a hit, the autobiography that everyone is suddenly

praising them. But they would never dream of recommending their friends to read them.

I believe myself that novel-writing has now become almost like tennis. There are quite a lot of people who can do it very well. But you don't want to watch most tennis-matches, and you don't want to read most of their books. These are the novels that if they are lucky sell 1,000 to 1,500 copies, divided between the libraries and the bookshops — and these are the novels that I believe will vanish.

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talking about, the next amazing Stephen Hawking.

When a few years ago there was much buying up of smaller imprints by big conglomerates, it was thought that the component parts would soon be merged and vanish. It has not proved so. Under the Random House umbrella, for instance, Carmen Callil still runs Chanto & Windus and Tom Mascher is still at Cape.

That is because it is clear even in the stratosphere of corporate management that publishing houses still need to be run by people with imagination and judgment, a gambling spirit and a knowledge of how to handle a good author. Without them, a publishing house will never find any best-sellers or good writers — or if by luck it does, will never keep them.

And publishers like Ms Callil will always want to take chances, to stick with a new author she trusts, to publish books that her instinct tells her have a dash of genius, however doubtful the accountants are.

Authors who have been having it easy are in for a shock. Even if they go on being published, their advances will plummet. (Mr Glover of Penguin has said that until recently most authors' advances have so far exceeded anything they earned from royalties that there was hardly any point in arguing about royalties at all — it was like moving deck-chairs on the *Titanic*.)

But "Authors Wanted" is still true. Ms Callil, for one, believes in the future: "There are so many good young publishers around. And on them, everything depends. If they have the flair of the great publishers of the past, they will still have a job even in the toughest of market-places — and good books will go on."

TOMORROW
Lynne Truss on
the myths of
office life

Darling, how wonderful, we've a little excuse

Children are a blessing. They sweeten the roughest grapes. I have not the faintest idea of the true feelings of Julia Somerville, the newsreader, about not getting the big whammy promotion of stepping into the shoes of Sir Alastair Burnet to fill the *News at Ten* screen shoulderpad-to-shoulderpad five nights a week. But I do know that her public response to the news was quite brilliant.

"As a parent of young children", she is reported to have said, "there is no way I would be interested in doing five nights a week presentation." And there you go. Unanswerable. That. Nobody can ever prove anything either way, and her alleged rival, Trevor McDonald, suddenly appears not as the victor, but as the only person selfish and leisured enough to want the job.

When the "parent of young children" card is played, what happens is that in one bound, the figure who might have been a puffed, forlorn victim is translated into glory: she suddenly commands the moral and humane high ground.

I am not suggesting for a moment that Ms Somerville is not sincere (I have children, and I wouldn't entertain the idea of such

WORKING LIFE
Libby Purves relishes
the perfect reason to
enter the slow lane



mother of young children who was startlingly, furiously ambitious and actually said, over a tense lunch, "Look, I'd have been on the board by now if it wasn't for the brats," with something much like hatred. It is a rare condition. On the other hand, I have often met perfectly contented, if tired, working mothers who take positive pleasure in the fact that they aren't going to make area manager because of the school

run and the need to be home for tea: they like the school gate and family tea as much as — if not more than — corporate planning meetings. I do myself, frankly.

But you see where this is leading? Suppose the rumour had got around that I was engaged in a snarling battle with a male journalist, and that we were equally favoured in the struggle to be the next presenter of a current affairs television programme. And suppose I won. My former rival could probably come up with some stuff about wanting to concentrate on an important book he is writing, etc. (journalists say this in the same way that sacked television executives claim they always wanted to be independent producers). But if he had won the toss, I could give a pitying, earth-motherly smile and gently point out that I wasn't in the running anyway, because I have young children and it is more important to me to be with them in these formative years... See what I mean?

The great pleasure of using children as excuses is that your excuse is always half true. From the first moment when I realised the glorious truth that having a new baby let you off going to late

boring dinner-parties, I have carefully cultivated a manner of weary saintliness, and got out of all sorts of awful things. "Oh — I'm sorry — I'll have to go, the baby's got out of the playpen" has cut off many a dull telephone call, although the children did make me stop using that one when they started school. It is a particularly brilliant line for dealing with women's magazine or womens page editors, who unreasonably feel they must be supportive. "Gosh, Louise," I say, "that's an absolutely brilliant idea, you are clever to have thought of it. But I couldn't do justice to the research, you see my son's at a new school." And so he is, but he's been there for a year and is perfectly happy.

And yes, OK, it is disgraceful to say all this, and I have let down the cause of working mothers, and it will never get me the chairmanship of the Equal Opportunities Commission (not that I want it, I mean, as a parent of young children... J. But it had to be admitted). If only for the sake of all those women who will never know that glorious moment when their partner leans tenderly over them in the maternity ward and says, "Darling — how wonderful — it's an excuse!"

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Epic rewoven in human terms

Benedict Nightingale reviews a French reworking of Greek classical plays: *Les Atrides*, in Bradford

Near the box office they are selling House of Atreus woolies and T-shirts: the different gift for a difficult relative, maybe. Next door, in a huge but as yet unoperative extension to a random mill, the original story has been lovingly reknit by one of the world's great directors, Ariane Mnouchkine. She has brought her Théâtre du Soleil to the Robin Mills on the outskirts of Bradford in Aeschylus's *Oresteia* and Euripides's *Iphigénie à Aulis*; and those who brave the extreme heat and humidity of her ad-hoc auditorium will be rewarded with a stunning blend of the sparely human and the sumptuously mythic. If this is sweat and labour — and for me it literally was — let us have more of it.

There are caveats to be made. When Peter Hall staged his masked *Oresteia* a decade ago, he made no apocryphal additions to Aeschylus. By presenting the Iphigenia tale as a prelude, Mnouchkine inevitably ends up with an Atreus saga that is emotionally quite different. After all, a couple of generations separate the two playwrights and these works. Aeschylus was the patriot who distinguished himself at Marathon and knew Athens at her most glorious, and Euripides was the sceptic who chose exile as a seemingly endless Peloponnesian war became uglier and more catastrophic. The one believed that universal harmony was gradually emerging from confusion; the other saw little but divine whimsy and chaotic human passions.

Euripides is hard to reconcile with Aeschylus, and gives the three plays of *The Oresteia* a curious tilt. To a large extent they become Clytemnestra's trilogy. The villainess is very nearly transformed into the heroine. How could it be otherwise when Euripides is

able to show in agonising detail the origins of her hatred of her husband, Agamemnon? Ignoring her pain and fury, he sacrifices her beloved daughter, Iphigenia, in the hope of ensuring good sailing weather to Troy. And off goes the Greek fleet, to a war fought over a woman whom her own sister can call a whore without fear of contradiction.

For Aeschylus, Clytemnestra is an evil adulteress who uses a half-forgotten grievance to give specious colour to a grave crime, the murder of her husband. But that is not how it is in Mnouchkine's production. A marvellous actress, Juliana Carneiro da Cunha, shows us Clytemnestra's affectionate pride in a daughter she thinks is going to Aulis to be married, and her justifiable anguish and rage when she is disabused. She leaves Euripides stricken, shattered and alone, and she enters Aeschylus a bold, impressive figure, with a sense of wrong we can all share. When Simon Abkarian's Agamemnon trundles back from Troy like some pristine Nazi, his smug face just visible above the red drapery of his moving platform — well, what decent mother would not stick a spear into him?

That is a distortion and causes some awkwardness in this all-French *Oresteia*, but it also adds tension and pathos to the story. One of the production's many striking moments occurs when Clytemnestra breaks free from her avenging son, Orestes, and crashes round the stage like a distraught moth, only to be caught and carried off her face stark with disbelief. Her death is the more moving for the maternal warmth she has just shown towards him, and for the desperate insecurity he himself displays before finding a brief strength in vindictive gleam. That role, too, is played by Abkarian: a triumphant justification of the dou-



"Men in black-red or black-gold gowns, black-grey fur round jowls caked in white": members of the chorus in Ariane Mnouchkine's *Les Atrides*

bling necessary when there are only five principals.

Nirupama Nityanandan also makes a strong impact, especially as a bright, plucky Iphigenia, a touchingly vulnerable gamine who gamely parrots her father's war-mongering rhetoric as she is wheeled off to her death on a platform that, horribly, looks half like a hospital bed, half like a tomb. Mnouchkine never lets us forget that *Les Atrides*, as she has titled the four plays, is a sad and sordid tale of personal suffering and family vendetta. But she manages to humanise the sequence without losing its sweep and

grandeur. This is also an epic battle in which opposing ideas of justice — male versus female, Apollonian versus instinctual — vie for supremacy in a moral void or vacuum.

That void is aptly enough symbolised by Guy-Claude François's set, a great square of lacy timber floorboards and walls. It manages to look both rawly realistic and strangely remote, an arena in which a cowboy might break in a horse or a figure from an archaic vase come magically to life. Men in black-red or black-gold gowns, black-grey fur round jowls heavily caked in white, seem as much at home

there as girls with fresh faces and simple tunics. It is a place in which feelings may be perfectly ordinary and yet of mythic moment.

Perhaps Mnouchkine could use her chorus as a chorus. As it is, they do not speak or sing while they move, but dance, then stop and listen as their leader, Catherine Schaub, puts their collective view. Yet they look gorgeous and make a mesmerising impact. Now they are Asiatic dancing girls, sinuously spinning around with the doomed Iphigenia; now Argive elders clattering about in red and gold like antique beekeepers; now slave

women in black, whirling like dervishes or glaucously swaying as they await Clytemnestra's death. They weave intricate patterns, and then scuttle to the sides, leaving the main characters on the ample acreage of a bare stage that just one or two actors seem able to fill.

Surprisingly, the famous red carpet on which Agamemnon swaggers to his doom is missing. But plenty of other stage pictures grab the imagination with their direct simplicity: the happy Clytemnestra arriving in Aulis on a primrose-and-white platform, or the dead Clytemnestra lying

bloody and barebreasted on a mattress. Meanwhile, Jean-Jacques Lemêtre seizes the ear with the atmospheric sounds he has conjured from the pots, the drums, the giant banjo, the string-within-a-drainpipe, the do-it-yourself double-bass and the myriad other instruments banked beside the stage like the contents of some old curiosity shop.

But you only have until Wednesday, when *Les Euménides* rounds off the sequence, to hear him and see the rest of the company. It has been an absurd 20 years since their last visit. Would they please, please come back soon?

THEATRE: Martin Hoyle on a showcase for young performers

More energy than elocution

"IT'S awash with hormones backstage," exclaimed Sandi Toksvig in awe. The comic actress was introducing the fourth Lloyds Bank Theatre Challenge, when the pick of 200 youth companies strutted their stuff at the National Theatre: 1) from Britain, one welcome guest production from Holland.

Vitality, confidence, physical attack and visual imagination were the salient characteristics of the nine shows I saw. Paradoxically, the traditional strength of the British theatre, the spoken word, came off worst. Nobody is taught to speak any more — is it considered elitist, precious, snobbish? The inability to project lines told especially in the *Marat/Sade*, presented by Amersham and Wycombe College Theatrical Society. A twittingly tense and passionately committed production was vitiated whenever a principal gave tongue to the suburban drone of the Majorie classless society.

Another question was posed by geographical distribution. After Glasgow, the northernmost point represented was Coventry; otherwise Devon, Gloucestershire, London and the home counties provided the majority.

However, the range of subject matter and style was wider than ever, from *The Riversiders* (Woodwich) — whose varying disabled members envisaged a future where the disadvantaged would be free from both old style contempt and modern patronising protectiveness — to the showcase's first Shakespeare production, Gloucestershire's *Everyman*. Youth Theatre updated *As You Like It* to a cocktail-quaffing court and what looked like a vast



Tense: Amersham and Wycombe College's *Marat/Sade*

lavish (flanked with real cars) where a cast of over 50 well-scrubbed and drug-free Travellers picknicked.

A Fergie-clone Rosalind, a mischievously round-eyed Celia and a Silvis-Phoebe double act for once both funny and touching (the small, wistful and black; she large, indignant and white) cheerfully featured in this severely abridged version. The perennial problem of sexual imbal-

ance was turned to advantage with the wicked duke transformed into "my usurping aunt". However odd it sounds, Cait Davis's compact portrait of benevolent authority, beautifully controlled, revealed the future professional.

The varied styles available are illustrated by my three particular favourites. Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* at first seemed a strange choice for young performers.

The original television play derived much of its power from the casting of near middle-aged adults as the child characters. The "Kids From Chi", from Chichester College of Technology, looked almost young enough to play these wartime juveniles straight, and showed up the adult casting as an irrelevant gimmick. A beautifully paced production evoked the treacherous world of childhood, its cruelty and conscience, shifting alliances, opportunistic loyalties and brutalities.

That was a world away from the 27th floor of a Glasgow high-rise where the Toon's Speak Theatre rehearsed *Sprogs*. Roddie Reilly's harrowing vignette of homeless youngsters provided performances of unnerving fluency. The play could be criticised as a static series of monologues, a social worker's casebook in a Clydeside *Lower Depths*, but the five players were rivetingly natural. Iain Connell's irredeemably hurt leader tackled his abusive tirades like a professional.

The Youth Theatre School of South Holland sent an engaging exploration of an adolescent friendship between two boys, one well-to-do from a stable background, the other aggressively insecure. The relationship's sharp corners and rough edges cast prismatic visions of companionship — Ratty and Mole, Oliver and the Artful Dodger — before deepening into sexual tensions. Theo Ham's production, using symbolism, fantasy, music and puppetry, evoked sensitive performances in perfect English, which is more than can be said for the National's current (and 80 per cent unintelligible) Shakespeare.

PROMS: Richard Morrison reviews the first weekend's concerts

Verdi and Vaughan Williams are hardly kindred musical spirits. But hearing the former's Requiem and the latter's *Sea Symphony* in close proximity (first and second nights of the Proms) illuminated one curious connection. In these works, both composers chose to ride through the valley of the shadow of death in a gloriously spirited charge, with trumpets and drums issuing a stirring tattoo of defiance, and choruses singing of the tomb and beyond in thrilling anticipation.

Verdi used the ancient Catholic rite, of course, while Vaughan Williams set the sonorous sea-poetry of Walt Whitman. The ocean becomes a metaphor for death — the "vast similitude" that "interlocks all" — and ships and sailors are human souls, exhorting to voyage fearlessly into the unknown region.

Neither composer ever offered anything so bracingly positive again. Verdi was the master dramatist, slipping behind many contradictory musics but actually endorsing nothing: his Day of Judgement is startling, but no more so than the malign brilliance of his music for Iago in *Otello*. In some ways, the Requiem is less cogently unified than his finest operas.

Vaughan Williams is a more complex case. His creative life suggests a man torn between belief in the Whimanesque "mystical journey" (hence his opera on Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*) and a far more nihilistic view, close to Thomas Hardy's: that God (if any) conspires to thwart, not redeem, humanity. In that mood he wrote his Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Symphonies — rather more convincing works than *A Sea Symphony*, with its borrowings from Gerontius and rum-tum-pictorialism.

Blazing their trails

So both works need performances that compel audiences temporarily to suspend incredulity. Neither quite got them in the Albert Hall.

Andrew Davis achieved some astonishing moments in the Verdi with well-drilled forces (BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus, London Symphony Orchestra, and the BBC Symphony Orchestra playing with great panache). The big moments thundered splendidly, and more effective still were the scarcely audible *planissimo* entries and whispered sibilants in the first movement, and, from the orchestra, hushed tremolando strings magically bringing the Offertory to a close.

But so much in this work depends on the soloists. Here, deficiencies were apparent. Soprano Susan Dunn never had the power to project the high-lying lines or inject mortal terror into the "Libera me": the piece went limp at the very place when it should be building towards its greatest intensity.

No problems with the mezzo Marjana Lipovsek's volume; in fact she over-dominated the quartets. But at least she put passion into her solos, whereas the male soloists, Vinson Cole and Paul Plushka, sounded merely uninvolved.

On Saturday, the opposite was the case. Two superb young soloists — the soprano Joan Rodgers and baritone Simon Keenlyside — projected clearly and with fervour, while the choral singing (Brighton Festival Chorus, London Cho-

ral Society), though accurate enough, lacked punchiness. That seemed hard on Vernon Handley, who conducted with a fine sense of style and pace.

Saturday's concert was dedicated to the memory of Sir Charles Groves, who was to have conducted it. John Drummond spoke eloquently of his many splendoured contribution to British musical life. A fitting elegy was supplied by Debussy's rarely heard Double Concerto: an uninterrupted flow of lyricism, in many beaming episodes, beautifully played by violinist Tasmin Little and cellist Raphael Wallfisch, with an inform Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



Hardy in 1870, according to Michael Bowman

Last chance . . .

FREDERICK ASHTON'S *A Month in the Country*, distilling Turgenev's play to Chopin's music, is the centrepiece of the Royal Ballet's mixed bill at Covent Garden (071-240 1066). Guest star Alina Asymuratova from the Kirov leads tonight's cast, partnered by Bruce Sansom. Young company members Tracy Brown and Michael Nunn dance the final performance on Friday.

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This Friday's TES looks at new return-to-work programmes for women with young children.

TES

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75p Every Friday

RADIO REVIEW: Music still has priority at Radio 3, despite the new look

Tunes rise above the traffic noise

listeners when the changes were announced. Now, after listening for a week, I think the despatchers should try again.

The first words each morning are reassuring: "Here is a summary of the news." I always liked that scrupulousness of Radio 3, and it goes on. Piers Burton-Page, the presenter on Friday, likewise said "Later I shall be giving you traffic news, if any."

True, we do get a good deal of traffic news, news of festivals and further news summaries between the music — and how

perfect and complete any piece of music sounds in comparison with these straggly sentences with their evanescent bits of information.

But several of the presenters during this first week went out of their way to insist that music comes first on the programme, and I think they made good their claim. On Air is still mostly music: classical, good and varied. There are perhaps more shorter pieces, or rondos and scherzos from longer works — and I regret that *Radio Times* no longer gives the full programme. If you

miss the beginning of a piece and the toast explodes out of the toaster at the end of it, you want to look up what it was. But so far I have enjoyed the music as much as I did on *Morning Concert*.

As for the words, they are brisk and good-humoured, and for the most part lightly link the music to something else that is being performed on Radio 3 or at Buxton. Quite useful, as the traffic news presumably is to those who like to hear mainly music while driving. But some of the new presenters are still putting

unnecessary emphasis on certain syllables in the mistaken Radio 4 and television notion that it makes what you are saying sound more interesting. One of them even said "the BB See Symphony Orchestra." Did he think we might confuse it with the BBD?

As for the new Radio 3 evening programme, *In Tune*, that follows much the same pattern as the old *Mainly for Pleasure*, but with a few longer interviews and arts news reports. I don't think that *Mainly for Pleasure* had quite such

passionate adherents so the suffering has been less.

There was a particularly good extended interview on Tuesday with Philip Pickett, who runs the New London Consort. He has reconstructed some examples of early Spanish music, and we heard (if he has got it right) some of the vivacious songs and haunting religious music that Columbus might have listened to between the shipping forecasts. General verdict, then, for the old hands a loss, but not a disaster. If Nicholas Kenyon, the controller of Radio 3, needed to make this bid for new listeners in order to improve Radio 3's chances of survival, it is a price we can pay.

DERWENT MAY

4 MODERN TIMES

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Running away from the past

The Israelis are trying to overcome the traumas of previous Olympics

On a stifling hot summer afternoon six young men are locked in combat in the basement of a modern gymnasium while a coach wipes the sweat from his face and barks encouragement in Russian. Nearby, in an Olympic-size pool a young Romanian woman is steadily ploughing a lane of water.

The single-mindedness of the athletes as they train is instantly recognisable as a sporting vestige of the former communist bloc, except that this time the sports centre is located north of Tel Aviv and the Russian, Ukrainian and Uzbek athletes are Jewish immigrants preparing to compete at Barcelona as members of Israel's national team.

The facilities here are superb, but the young do not

diaspora have shunned sporting careers in favour of more cerebral pursuits.

The problem has been compounded by Israel's legacy of conflict. Even the most promising athlete must suspend his sporting career for three years during national service between the ages of 18 and 20. After missing that period of training, few athletes pick up where they left off.

Perhaps more damaging to Israel's Olympic hopes is the persistent feeling in the Jewish state that the country is somehow destined to do badly. The greatest scar on the national consciousness is the massacre of Israeli athletes during the Munich Olympic games 20 years ago when Palestinian gunmen broke into the Israeli men's quarters and seized 11

members of the squad, all of whom were later killed during a bungled rescue mission by German police.

"I was young but I was running the best times of my career when the terrorist attack happened and my coach was among the men killed," says Esther Roth, considered Israel's finest-ever athlete.

"The rest of us pulled out of the games after the attack, so I will never know how I might have run. Olympics for me were never the same after Munich." In Montreal four years later, when she believes she was past her peak, Ms Roth finished six in the women's 100m hurdles.

The Israeli squad again appeared fated to be deprived of a medal at the last Olympics in



Before the attack: Israel's Munich team

Seoul, when Eldad Amir and Yoel Sela, had to pull out of a heat of the Flying Dutchman yacht class because it coincided with Yom Kippur, the day of atonement and the holiest day of the Jewish year. They ended up finishing fourth. Although the yachtsmen hope to rectify the loss in Spain, bad luck has continued to plague the Israeli team.

Israel's two best Olympic hopefuls, the Russian-born weightlifters, Uri and Igor Dendik, had to retire in disgrace this year after they tested positive to having used steroids during the European championships.

"We have had 166 athletes in all nine Olympiads since the 1952 Helsinki games," says Uri Alek, the director general of the Israeli Olympic committee, "but we have never won a medal."

Despite the setbacks, he believes the Israeli squad has good medal prospects this time. Apart from the new immigrants, Israel has local Olympic hopefuls, including the windsurfer Amir Inbar, ranked number one in the world, and the world and European women's judo medalist Yael Arad.

RICHARD BEESTON



Tribal elder: Evelyn George has no doubt about tribal identity — "My ma and grandma made exactly the same pieces of pottery that I do", she says

Return of the natives

American Indians are going to law to reclaim land — and winning. Jamie Dettmer on the million dollar claim of the Catawba

South Carolina has long taken the Catawba Indians for granted as a docile bunch, a quaint leftover from America's past that could be ignored. One official handbook on the state written in 1941 mentions them in its section on the town in a single sentence. "From the Indian reservation nearby, the last remnant of Catawba Indians, locally called The Nation, peddle their pottery."

For most of this century the Catawba were excluded from jobs, houses and schools in the small town of Rock Hill. But soon the 1,000 Catawba who remain may own 15 sq miles of prime land in and around the town, most of it developed and worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Few in Rock Hill took the Catawba seriously when, in the early 1970s, they revived legal efforts to claim ownership of the land which they say was granted them in 1763 by George III as reward for their support in the Seven Years War against the French and Cherokees. The native Americans were merely acting up and just copying other east coast tribes who had been emboldened by the black civil rights movement and were now intent on baffling states by bringing up ancient land claims, or so everyone believed.

"They thought we were just joking," says Carson Blue, aged 48, the grandson of the last fluent Catawba speaker. "But there have been tribesmen who have gone to their grave trying to get justice and our lands back. We are fighting for native

American rights and we have the expertise and determination to fight to correct history." In October the Catawba will file 27,500 legal writs against the owners of the neat suburban houses in the disputed area. This is a "joke" that could cost the federal, state and local governments at least \$40 million in compensation to the native Americans. A jest that could see some farmers being forced to sell land if the state decides an expansion of the 640-acre Catawba reservation into the surrounding farmland is preferable to handing back the disputed land.

The town is in uproar over the dispute. The local newspaper is full of angry denunciations of the Catawba, and of the state government for not realising right away that they were serious. Building projects in the disputed 15-mile area have been brought to a standstill with developers unable to obtain required title insurance. A French company planning a \$20 million shopping mall cried off. Some of the home owners have already fought a series of legal actions with the Catawba and are out of pocket by several hundreds and, in some cases, thousands of dollars.

Indian leaders have tried to calm alarmist reports. No-one is going to lose their homes: the Catawba want a settlement with the federal and state authorities.

As Rock Hill developed in the 1970s so did the lives of the 40 Catawba families on the reservation nine miles from the town improve. Most of them now are in jobs, more often than not in the garages and car repair shops that fringe the old town and jostle small brick churches and drive-through fast food takeaways for space.

The Nations reservation, nestled alongside the wide and mud-laden Catawba river and fringed by oak and pecan trees, is all that is left of the 8,000 sq miles in North and South Carolina that were once home to Catawba tribes.

The Catawba's doom was sealed from the moment the white man appeared. European diseases cut deeply into the tribe. Nearly every year smallpox struck. But unlike some other tribes, they managed to draw out their decline by being useful to the British. As settlers began to creep on to their lands and those of other native Americans, the Catawba gained weapons and supplies and a restraint on settlers by fighting on the British side against the French and other tribes.

Their reward came in 1763, when the British signed a treaty granting them 144,000 acres (225 sq miles) in up-state South Carolina as a sanc-

ary in perpetuity. Although the treaty is now lost, no-one is disputing its original existence.

In the Treaty of Nation Ford in 1840, the state of South Carolina took away the Catawba land rights granted to by George III, and gave them in return \$21,000 and the 640-acre reservation. The Catawba now claim that the 1840 treaty is invalid because it was not endorsed by the US Congress. A 1790 federal law requires all agreements with native Americans to be passed by Congress. In 1979, the Passamaquoddy and Penobscot of Maine adopted a similar argument, and won an \$81.5 million law suit.

Many South Carolinians are sceptical of the Catawba's moral arguments, and question whether there are any real members of the tribe left anyway. "I don't think there are any full-blooded Catawba," says Rod Williams, a Rock Hill businessman who lost the chances to build a shopping mall in the town worth between \$50-100 million because of problems with title insurance. "They don't speak the language, and they have no tribal traditions, except for a few old people on the reservation who make a bit of pottery. There is greed there. The only reason the tribe is important to them is because of the prospect of money."

Carson Blue, who is a nephew of

the present chief, Gilbert Blue, admits there are people coming out of the woodwork now claiming to be Catawba. Even a secretary in the White House telephoned recently, saying she thought she was a member of the tribe. He acknowledges that they know little of tribal traditions and culture. But he rejects accusations that they're not real native Americans. "The tribe is important to me, because I want to maintain my heritage. We are working on the linguistics so that we will be able to speak among ourselves in our own language."

Evelyn George, aged 78, has no doubt about tribal identity. Sitting in her tiny wood cabin on the reservation, she displays the rough and ready pottery she had made that day. "My ma and grandma made exactly the same pieces that I do." For most of the conversation, her eyes kept turning to the television, just like most other Americans sitting at home in the afternoon.

Outside her cabin, three boys, differing in colour from brown to white, practised their baseball. There are a higher number of mobile homes, and small, simple cabins on the reservation than in the neighbouring white man's area. The native Americans until recently did not have the money to build houses. Otherwise, Reservation Road and Indian Trail, with the obligatory basketball nets in the gardens and the profusion of cars scattered in the driveways, could be any other suburban American thoroughfare.

If you work with disabled people, this training video could help.

If you work with disabled people our one-hour video training programme about the new disability benefits could be very helpful. Designed to be used in a workshop or training situation, the video covers Disability Living Allowance, and Attendance Allowance for people over-65. It will be broadcast (for video-recording) on BBC2 at 2am in the morning on Tuesday 21st July and Wednesday 22nd July. The Wednesday repeat will also be signed.



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The joy of celibacy

Cardinal Hume celebrates 50 years as a monk and explains his views on the benefits of self-denial

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, is more contemplative than usual. He is celebrating 50 years as a Benedictine monk. To be precise, it is 50 years and ten months, but it took nearly a year to persuade the cardinal to do this interview.

Cardinal Hume, who leads his diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes this week, is often described as the spiritual head of the country's four million Catholics. This is not strictly correct, although he is president of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, his writ as archbishop extends no further than the borders of his diocese. But he is valued highly in the church for his wisdom, especially on difficult subjects such as celibacy.

Last week Cardinal Hume made headlines when he said that a successful celibate has no regret he has not married. By that, he says now, he did not intend to imply that he regretted his own decision to embrace a celibate lifestyle. "It has always been my view that a person who undertakes to live a celibate life will be aware of the sacrifice that he or she had made in not marrying," he

says. "In no way do I regret that I responded to God's call to embrace the celibate state. I am very lucky because I have not got a family to whom I have responsibilities..."

"Celibacy is a very, very precious value. Just as you have to work hard at making a success of married life, so you have to work hard at making a success of celibacy. It is a way of loving. In the first instance it is a very powerful witness that loving other people and having sexual relationships with them are not synonymous. Our love has to be human but has to be controlled and enormously respectful of other people."

There is in all of us space in our hearts which we want somebody else to fill, and we fill them. That surely is the ideal of married love.

"A celibate has to make certain there is space in his heart for all those with whom he comes into contact in his pastoral ministry. He must not let one single person fill it. It is not just a question of the availability of time for others, but it is the availability of one's heart. As I understand it, we are celibate for the sake of the Kingdom of God."

As the son of a French Roman Catholic mother and a Protestant father, religion has been central to his life from his early childhood. (He is fluently bi-lingual, but although taught to pray in French now thinks and prays in English.)

His reputation as an ecumenist, helping to bring about a rapprochement between the Catholic and Anglican churches, is unparalleled. As a pastor, it can be argued he has no equal. As a manager, he has brought a new unity to the Catholic church in his diocese. Yet he makes an amazing confession. "Trying to be as honest as I can, I do not think I am the right man for this job. I think there are certain parts of it I can do. But I have not got what the man in this job really needs which I think is high intelligence and a very long vision."

He still seems surprised by his election, even though he has held this job for 16 years. "For a long time in my youth I thought I was uneducated. Others probably think that now, I lived in a family where standards were pretty high. My father was a professor of medicine. My parents were marvelous parents. They



No regrets: the cardinal clarifies his attitude to celibacy

did expect high standards. So I did not grow up feeling I was a roaring success as a child."

While he did not "mind" as he put it, going to the top he remains touchingly unconvinced that he was the right choice to head the Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales. The impression remains that he would far rather be teaching young monks and digging potatoes at Ample-

forth, where he was Abbot for 13 years and where he has spent some of his happiest years. On a recent return visit, he was thrilled to feel his original vocation confirmed. "I realised that is where I really like to be."

"When I came to London one of the things I was told was not to be frightened to engage in controlled vulgar self-revelation. In other words, not to be frightened of saying 'I'. So I have cheerfully got into the habit of it now," he says but adds: "In the monastery and brought up as a young monk I think I certainly grew up with the idea that my put myself at the centre of the stage was unacceptable. Obviously a monk's life has to be centred on God and the search for God. I never got rid of selfishness and self-will..."

"I used to say to the monks in the community when I was in a position to say these things, that in an Ampleforth monk there should always be a disappointment that you were not able to be a hermit. There must always be in a monk that kind of nostalgia for God."

"As a Benedictine I think one brings a certain training, a training in the spiritual life. I have learned in the monastery the value of prayer. I have learned how to pray. I have learned in particular the two loves which I think a monk ought to have: a love of solitude and silence, and a love of community."

RUTH GLEDHILL

If you can stand the heat in the kitchen

The chefs of France are sharing their secrets. Robin Neillands samples some courses in cookery

THE TIMES
PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

The chef at the Hôtel Royal gave me an insight to the secret of French cooking: Monbazillac.

Normally, I avoid Monbazillac, that sweet wine of Périgord, but when you are staying over a hot stove in the kitchens of the Hôtel Royal at Deauville a swig of Monbazillac is just the thing. Henri Morel and his brigade swear by it.

In recent years, cookery courses in France have enjoyed increasing popularity. As more and more people can afford to enjoy good food, so the reputation of French chefs has expanded and people flock to their kitchens, from where a little of their magic touch can spread delights in the kitchens of suburbia. That, at least, is one theory. I have another one. The reason for the generally high standard of French food reflects not just the expertise of the chefs, but the attitude of the customers. Many French chefs agree with this. "Being a top chef is hard work," says Guy Frohese, who runs the Michelin-rosseted Grand Hôtel Aubrac in Lozère. "You must be at the market by six, and the kitchen will not be clean until midnight so an 18-hour day is quite common. Now, if the result of all that effort is indifference among the clientele, why bother? We need knowledgeable, critical customers to keep us on our toes."

Members of the family must, therefore, prepare to make critical comments when the family cook departs on a cookery course. Most of these are of the watch, listen and learn variety, where the chef cooks lunch or dinner while the visitors look on, listen to the advice and ask questions. They then eat the meal, taste the results and, no doubt, make the critical comments. My weekend cookery course at the Hôtel Royal in Deauville was rather more hands-on. We extracted the nerves from a goose liver to make foie gras, got hot and bothered over the sea bass and found out that the best way to glaze a crème brûlée was with a camping gas blowtorch... and learnt all about Monbazillac, of course.

The course at the Hôtel Royal in Deauville is taken as part of a weekend break costing £290 per head, for two

people. This includes a set of chef's whites with your name on the pocket to wow the folks back home.

French Expressions runs its cookery courses at Dominique Bouchet's beautiful four-star Moulin de Marcouze hotel at St-Genès-de-Saintonge, Moenac, north of Bordeaux. The courses last four days and take the guests through the full rigour of a chef's life from early morning trips to the market to buy produce, to choosing the menu, selecting the wine and cheese and handling the food. There are also lectures. Prices, full-board, start at £879 including flights from Gatwick and car hire.

For those who prefer to learn by eating rather than by doing, French Expressions is also offering a three-night gastronomic break at the Château de Loguénolé, a one Michelin rosette hotel-restaurant in Brittany. Prices start from £435, falling to £398 in September.

The best way to glaze was with a blowtorch

Arblaster and Clarke of Petersfield, Hampshire, is offering cookery demonstrations this autumn as part of its five-day "Gourmet Normandy" package. These courses are held at the Château La Chenevière, near Bayeux, under the enthusiastic guidance of a top young chef, François Laurent. The course consists of two three-hour demonstrations mixed with some actual cooking in the kitchen, plus tours of the local Calvados distilleries. The price for the cookery course clients is £409 all inclusive, while any non-participating partner will pay £389.

Champagne is the centre of the other Arblaster and Clarke cookery course this autumn. The procedure is the same but the course takes place at the Michelin rosetted "L'Assiette Champenoise" hotel-restaurant, at Reims and the excursions include a visit to the Krug champagne cellars. The price here is £429.

Normandy is also the setting for the three-night gastronomic breaks on offer from Inntravel, of Helmsley, in Yorkshire. The courses are held at Yvetot on the Channel coast north of Le Havre and at the popular Hôtel France et Fuchias at St Vaast in the Cotentin near Cherbourg. These are hands-on cookery courses where the guests prepare dinner under guidance from the chefs and then eat the result. Prices here, including ferry crossings for car



First-hand experience: the opportunity to learn the arts of French cuisine has brought people flocking from suburbia to the kitchens of leading chefs

and passengers, start at £187. Another small, privately run company, La France des Activités, has joined up with Brigitte Tilleray's "L'Atelier de Cuisine" of Normandy to produce a five-night cookery course. This is based at the Château de la Brie near Cherbourg, and is another of these hands-on and eat the result courses, culminating in a grand banquet, also prepared by the guests. The price for this is £535 for the participants and £250, for any non-participating partner.

La France des Activités also offers gastronomic instruction in the Tarn-et-Garonne at the Hôtel La Campagnette, near Moissac, where an afternoon of instruction is based on preparing ducks for an evening feast. This is open to any of the company clients staying in the vicinity and costs about £45 a head, including dinner. Although Normandy is the base for most of the cookery courses, the cuisine of Brittany

is also worth knowing, especially by those who like seafood. Page and Moy, of Leicester, is running four-day cookery courses at the Hôtel du Petit Prince at Pléneuf-Val-André on the north coast of Brittany near St. Malo. These are run by master chef Alain Poirier, who gives a three-hour demonstration every morning, followed by a long lunch and afterwards free to visit local sights or some of the oyster beds — or to sample at stalls around the harbour at Cancale.

This course also ends with a farewell banquet and the presentation of diplomas with which to overawe the people back home. Prices start at £199 and the courses are run every week during September. Moving south, to ever-popular Provence, Hampton House Travel is running cookery courses at Les Demeures du Ranquet at the village of Tornac, 30 miles from Nîmes. The five-day course here is based around the ingredients, a day on fish, a day on

pâtisserie, a day on shellfish, mornings in the kitchen and afternoons exploring the surrounding countryside. Prices start at about £500, including flights to Lyons. Hampton House also runs courses in Burgundy. There are weekend courses based at the Auberge aux Trois Saisons at Le Prémy, near Beaune, costing from £525, including flights, and a little less if you drive. As a final soupçon, the company runs weekend

courses at the Grand Hôtel in Le Touquet, just across the Channel, at prices from £300, all inclusive. Apart from these cookery courses, there are many companies offering gastronomic tours, some by means which protect the waistline. Belle France of Lamberhurst in Kent, for example, is running gastronomic tours by bicycle and La France des Activités can offer gastronomic tours by horse.

A GUIDE FOR GOURMETS

For more details on the courses given above, contact: Royal Hôtel, Deauville, (010 33 31 98 66 33); Page and Moy, (0533 552521); Arblaster and Clarke, (0730 266883); Belle France, (0892 890885); La France des Activités, (0449 737678); French Expressions, (071-794 1480); Hampton House Travel, (081-977 6404); Inntravel, (0439 711111).

A full list of other companies offering cookery courses or gastronomic breaks can be found in *The Reference Guide to The Traveller in France 1992*, available from the French government tourist office, 187, Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. This is free to visitors, but please send £1 in stamps to cover postage.

A useful book for gastronomes is Pamela Vandyke Price's *France for the Gourmet Traveller*, published in paperback by Harrap at £7.95. The Michelin Red Guide to hotels and restaurants is another invaluable aid.

TOMORROW: Wine courses in France

Ils sont fous ces Français

I have an Italian friend, an Oxford academic, who is fluent in onomatopoeic monosyllables. Some of his characteristic utterances are: "Gasp!", "Sob!", "Stup!", and "Gubi!". He learned his English mainly from comic books. Similarly, I owe most of my oral French not to Proust or Baudelaire but *Tintin* and *Astérix*.

Bandes dessinées, or BDs ("les bédés") for short, are a collective obsession in France, and they enjoy a kind of cachet unknown in England. When the Centre National de la Bande Dessinée de l'Image opened in Angoulême, it was Jack Lang, the Minister of Culture, who cut the ribbon. When Hergé (the translation of R.G., the initials of his real name, George Remi) died about ten years ago, the sense of national mourning and the funeral rites were on a par with the obituaries for Jean-Paul Sartre.

BDs, even as they hark back to the heroes and villains of a Manichean lost world, hold up a distorting mirror to the national psyche. They are more than a painless way of picking up the language; they are a portable encyclopaedia, a Larousse of ancient (*Astérix*) and modern (*Tintin*) history, a map of the five continents, and an archive of actual and invented colloquialisms. The true test of a BD is whether or not it adds to the linguistic stock rather than just reproducing it. Claire Bretécher, for example, makes up some of the slang for her teenage heroine, Agrippine, which then catches on in reality (eg *figa*, "great").

Catchphrases: *Ils sont fous ces Romains* — "These Romans are crazy". From *Astérix*. Any nationality can be substituted for *Romains* (ces Bretons, ces Corsés). Hence the headline in *L'Equipe* (the French sports newspaper) after a recent football match in the European Championship in which the Danes valiantly suffered lots of injuries: *Ils sont fous ces Danois*.

Ritual expressions:

Haut les mains (also *les mains en l'air*) — "hands up!"

Nous voilà une fois de plus dans de beaux/jolis draps — "a fine mess we're in again" (*Tintin* to Snowy — *Milou* — as the heads straight towards the waterfalls).

Au secours! — "help!"

Rendez-vous — "surrender!"

Nous l'avons échappé belle — "that was a narrow escape"

FRANCE

ESSENTIAL FRENCH: COMIC SPEAK



Sain et sauf — "safe and sound"

Curses

Sapristi — "good grief" (deformation of *sacristi*, from *sacré*)

Superlipolette — "heavens above" (further deformation of above)

Tonnerre! Mille tonnerres! Tonnerre de tonnerre! Tonnerre de Brest! — "shiver me timbers", "great thundering typhoons", "blistering barnacles" etc (Captain Haddock-speak)

Ca par exemple — "My word!"

Insultes

Un coquin — rogue

Une canaille — (gender invariable) scoundrel, crook

Un malotru — lout, yob

Insolent freluquet — (whippersnapper), *Jeune imbécile* — what the coquins and the canailles say to *Tintin*.

Anthropophage! — "cannibal!"

Bande de ectoplasmes! — "gang of ectoplasms!"

Sound effects

Glou glou — *glug, glug* (hence the verb

glouglouter, "to glug", also "to gobble", as of a turkey)

Miam miam — yum, yum (Jules Verne invented an African tribe of cannibals called the *Nyam-Nyams*)

Paf! ou ouaf! — "pow!"

Pan pan! — "bang-bang!"

Wouah, wouah — "woof, woof" (Snowy)

Cocorico — "cockadoodadoo" (ie dawn)

Narrative punctuation

Pendant ce temps, en attendant, cependant — "meanwhile..."

Quelques heures/minutes/instants plus tard — "a few hours/minutes/moments later..."

Foreigners: Invariably the butt of satire. In Corsica it is dangerous to look at anyone's sister. In Britain it is always foggy and we drive on the wrong side of the road. According to *Astérix*, *Les Bretons* (i.e. us) are descendants of the Gauls and share the same language, but with certain peculiarities of expression and manners (they drink hot water with a *nuage de lait* — "with a spot of milk"). This is how-not-to-speak French:

Bonté gracieuse — "goodness gracious" (at the sight of a Roman invasion force)

Je dis, c'est un morceau de chance — "I say, that's a piece of luck"

Vieil homme — "old man"

La magique potion instead of *la potion magique*

Science fiction

La fusée lunaire — "moon rocket"

La soucoupe volante — "flying saucer"

Objet Volant Non-Identifié or *OVNI* — "UFO"

Other eponymous protagonists

Lucky Luke (nb the "u" in "Lucky" pronounced as in "Luke") — fearless and invincible bachelor cowboy of the Far West

Achille Talon — "Achilles Heel", local hero

Gaston la Gaffe — appalling office boy

Les Bidochons — French Alf Garnett and his wife

Perhaps it is no coincidence in the age of EuroDisney that "Mickey" has become a term of contempt (roughly equivalent to *ringard*, *nullard* — "nerd", "berk"; *micketerie* — *bêtise* — "blunder"). *Un vrai tintin* is a "boy scout", someone who is a little too good to be true, too straight. Which other journalist, after all, is not only incorruptible, but never gets drunk or swears — and never files any copy either?

ANDY MARTIN

AA FIVE STAR SERVICE FOR MOTORING IN EUROPE

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Unlimited medical expenses and additional hospital benefits	✓
Cancellation/curtailment per person with Five Star Service	✓
Separate cover for caravans, trailers and mini buses	✓
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OR GET CROSS.

EDUCATION TIMES



Note of triumph: the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools orchestra rehearsing for its 21st birthday at the Barbican Hall in the City of London

Well-prepared for survival

Despite recession, prep schools are doing well, John O'Leary reports, and some are even planning big fee increases

The dimensions of the cricket ball to be used in school matches represented the most pressing concern of preparatory school headmasters 100 years ago. The pre-eminence of a private boarding education was not in question, and there was no shortage of parents to supply an elite group of schools.

Those 54 heads, whose cricketing deliberations led to the formation of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools, would have had a more prosaic agenda today. The harsh winds of recession and social change are perhaps for prep schools more threatening than anywhere in the independent sector.

Until now, however, most preps have weathered the storm. No pessimism was evident among the 500 school representatives celebrating the association's centenary in London over the weekend, along with the IAPS orchestra, which was also marking its 21st anniversary with a concert at the Barbican Hall in the City of London. Like other independent schools, preps are experiencing their first drop in pupil numbers for many years. The overall decline in IAPS schools amounted to fewer than 500 pupils in a total of 114,000, however,

and the numbers of girls rose. The fall has all been in boarding, the most expensive and lately the most controversial of prep schools' services. The trend away from boarding has been most marked in the eight to 11 age range — the schools' prime territory. Social pressures to keep children at home inevitably are stronger for the younger ones. The prep schools are adapting to their new circumstances, however, with a switch to more day places, younger entry and more flexible arrangements where boarding remains the norm.

In less than 30 years the composition of the IAPS, the largest as well as the oldest of the prep school associations, has changed beyond recognition. Where 137 out of 500 schools were for boarders only, today there are only 11. The 61 schools with day places have grown to only 236. In 1964, boarders outnumbered day children among a total of 52,000 pupils. By 1992, numbers had more than doubled to 115,000, but there were only 20,000 boarders. Although there are still 190 single-sex prep schools,

most have become co-educational. Leading prep school heads agree that it is this growing variety of provision and the schools' enduring reputation for quality teaching in small classes that enables so many to thrive against the odds.

Roger Trafford, the head of Clifton College Preparatory School, Bristol, and the IAPS chairman, says that prep schools are trying to be as flexible as possible. "Conditions are changing," he adds. "In many cases, both parents work, so we are offering facilities for children from 8am until 7 or 8pm."

Like the senior schools, preps are also adapting to the market by keeping this year's fee increase to a minimum after several years of double-digit fee inflation. Mr Trafford says: "We are very much in the hands of the government, which sets teachers' pay, but we have stressed the importance of keeping fees down this year."

For some of the top schools, however, the calculation is that even in recession the market will withstand high fees if the service is right. Port Regis School in Shaftes-

bury, Dorset, will charge £3,115 a time for boarders, but has 30 more registered than for the year which has just finished. David Pritchard, the headmaster, says: "The recession is hitting those schools that do not offer the quality... it is quality that survives recession. Education is no different. Parents are certainly more choosy and are doing the rounds. One had looked at 26 schools before choosing us. But I have been to schools all over the world, and there is nothing to compare with a good prep school."

Even schools like Port Regis have to work to convince parents that the stern image of boarding is outdated, but there are few doubts on academic grounds. The days when prep schools tended to be poorly equipped for science and technology are long gone, and their traditional teaching methods are now firmly back in fashion with parents and politicians.

John Morris, the general secretary of IAPS, says: "The schools have been in the forefront of developing the national curriculum. Some pioneered the teaching

of technology, for example. We always had regular assessment and modern languages, which seem to be in more demand now."

The association has used its centenary to mount a fund-raising exercise to provide places for disadvantaged children.

Few of those in prep school doubt that the next 20 years will see even more dramatic changes. Mr Trafford expects to see clusters of schools pooling their facilities and concentrating on particular strengths. "It is pointless building great swimming-pools next door to each other. We should share with each other and with the community, especially as charitable trusts."

Mr Pritchard has outlined his vision of the future in an article for the Independent Schools Information Service magazine, written jointly with Elizabeth Major, the head of Warwick Prep School, whom he married last week. They expect new technology to take over more of the routine teaching functions, schools to be open for more of the year, facilities to be modernised and extracurricular activity to increase in importance.

If they are right, the investment will be heavy. But prep schools have learnt that they have to adapt to survive.

Plans marked for failure

The government's obsession with taking politics out of schooling will not solve the real problems

ALL NOW awaits the promised white paper that is expected to provide for an enlarged grant-maintained sector and make local authorities devolve more financial control to schools. John Major has talked of taking power to intervene directly when schools are found to be failing, a dubious suggestion that will effectively nationalise every local dispute.

On all these matters, the government assumes that the main causes of failure are political, not educational; that standards will automatically rise if elected local authorities and local politicians can be shut out.

I thought about this when I picked up a valuable new publication from the Policy Studies Institute — *Urban Trends*, edited by Peter Willmott and

proportion of students remaining in full-time education at 17. But when these are set against the rate of improvement in the rest of the country, the relative performance of the deprived areas continues to get worse.

Also startling is that education resources have increased in the country as a whole but in many deprived areas have been cut. For example, in the 1980s the national primary school pupil-teacher ratio improved from 22.6 to 22. In the London boroughs of Brent, Haringey and Newham, which include some of the UK's most deprived neighbourhoods, the ratios deteriorated by two or more percentage points. Nine out of 14 areas for which detailed figures are provided saw deterioration.

It is easy to argue that re-

VIEWPOINT

Stuart Maclure



sources by themselves will not guarantee standards and that money is seldom the key issue. A lot of talk about "cuts" is bogus.

Most of the country has had an increase in resources. But it is distinctly worrying that in many of the most difficult areas there have been real cuts — at a time when the demands made on primary schools by the introduction of the national curriculum and national assessment have been greater than ever. What is more, in many areas the cuts are continuing.

No doubt the white paper will explain how John Patten's trouble-shooting commissioner-gauleiters will set about changing things. It is, of course, true that some schools cope much better than others and if all could be made to perform like the best it would make a big improvement. I doubt that even an all-wise central government knows how to work this particular oracle. But what is certain is that the failures of the schools cannot be seen in isolation. If the cities continue to fester, the schools will not be immune.

Urban Trends 1 edited by Willmott and Hutchison, £19.95, from the PSI, 100 Park Village East, London NW1 3SR.

Changes to national curriculum tests follow a campaign north of the border

Militant Scottish parents may claim credit for the concessions announced last week by John Patten, the education secretary, on national curriculum tests in English schools.

The extended timetable and other changes in next year's tests mirror alterations already made north of the border. As parents in England and Wales pore over the results of seven- and 14-year-olds, many in Scotland are still celebrating what they claim as a victory for civil disobedience.

Last year the Parents Coalition, a pressure group acting with the main Scottish teachers' union and the majority of the regional councils responsible for education, persuaded two thirds of Scotland's parents to withdraw their children from the tests.

An even bigger boycott seemed to be shaping up in this, the second year of assessment: almost a quarter of the nation's primary schools had not even applied for national testing materials by the February deadline. The issue was sufficiently critical in the election for all the parties except the Conservatives to promise that the tests would be scrapped.

The killer propaganda blow had been administered at the start of the year by the Parents Coalition, when it organised a questionnaire of all 120,000 parents of children eligible for the first set of tests. Out of 58,000 replies, 79 per cent gave the thumbs down to compulsory testing.

In spite of the election result, there was no improvement in the number of pupils taking the tests this summer. The Scottish Office estimates that two-thirds were withdrawn from the process.

Against this backdrop, Scotland's newly appointed education minister, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, announced important concessions aimed at defusing the issue. Lord James conceded that testing had been "misrepresented and misunderstood" in Scotland, a failing he wanted to correct by introducing "arrangements for testing that command wide respect".

Scots parents hail a victory



Instead of all pupils being tested simultaneously, it would be up to teachers to decide when each child was assessed in reading, writing and mathematics. In the conciliatory words of Lord James: "This would mean that pupils would progress from one level to another at their own pace... and schools would be better able to incorporate testing within their regular assessment arrangements."

This announcement was greeted by critics of primary testing as a significant climbdown by the government. But the fact that the revised scheme has since come in for renewed criticism indicates that the government did

not cave in completely. Indeed, under the new proposals, teachers will actually have to administer tests. There will be five levels of assessment for children aged between five and 14, which means that the revised scheme will spill over into the first two years of secondary school.

The steam has been taken out of the issue to a large extent, but the government is getting what it has always wanted: some sort of assurance that schools are performing against national standards," says Astrid Ritchie, chairwoman of the Scottish Conservative party's education policy committee.

"We have succeeded in bringing some accountability into primary schools and the early stages of secondary. Don't forget, national testing has always been more about testing and assessing schools."

Not surprisingly, Judith Gillespie, who turned her Victorian semi-detached home in an affluent area of Edinburgh into the headquarters of the Parents Coalition, takes a very different view. "We have demonstrated that people power can force governments back into line when they go against the express wishes of the vast majority of the population."

Ms Gillespie claims that the Parents Coalition scarcely had to wage a battle. Scottish parents, she says, were instinctively opposed to tests which they viewed as educationally unsound, as well as a waste of public money and teachers' time.

"The Scottish public still has a great deal of respect for the teaching profession, which has traditionally been an all-graduate profession in Scotland," Ms Gillespie says. "There has always been a tremendous consensus on Scottish education. Michael Forsyth stood outside that consensus."

Since the election, senior Scottish Tories have adopted a less confrontational posture. Mr Forsyth has been transferred to the employment department. His departure from the Scottish Office and the changes in primary testing together marked a final decisive chapter in what was dubbed the "Forsyth saga".

In a remarkable speech (in Nottingham on July 3), Lord Fraser, a minister at the Scottish Office, admitted that the Conservatives' approach to governing Scotland in the Thatcher era was "clumsy, insensitive and even arrogant". He spoke of "a slightly different approach" to the testing of eight- and 11-year-old pupils which recognised the particular traditions and circumstances of the Scottish education system.

The revised scheme is still under consultation in Scotland. The changes in England do not yet go as far, but they bear the same stamp of origin.

ROB BROWN

Pity the poor examiners

A safety net of checks aims to ensure that papers are fairly assessed



Shhh! Examiners at work, checking assessments

Spare a thought for the examiners? It is a sentiment that may get short shrift from the hundreds of thousands of students sitting GCSE or A-level examinations at this time of year. Yet the examiners are being assessed, too. Failure to mark to the correct standard will mean losing their allocation of papers. They will not be asked to mark again.

From the moment the invigilator tells students in the examination room to stop writing, an elaborate system of monitoring begins. Even the checkers are checked.

Scripts are posted to the examiner, rather than to the examining board, but they are not marked immediately. First, the examiner has to attend a "standardisation" meeting to ensure that all examiners mark in the same way. Those who fail to attend are not allowed to mark.

On the morning the students sit down to take the exam, the examiner receives a marking blueprint in the post. This contains a copy of the examination paper and model answers. The next morning, examination scripts from various parts of the country will begin to arrive.

An examiner will usually mark between 250 and 350 scripts in three weeks. Beginners start with 150; the more experienced handle up to 500. None of the marked scripts, nor the sheets used to record the marks, can be returned to the exam board until two sets of samples have been sent to the senior examiners and they have expressed themselves satisfied with the marking.

The mark sheets completed by the examiners are then read by machine and the figures recorded on a computer print-out. Meanwhile, the scripts are checked at the board by hundreds of regular seasonal staff to ensure that the totals are correct, that each page has been marked and that there are no other clerical errors. The checked mark on the script is checked against the print-out. Any discrepancies are investigated.

It is now about five weeks since the students sat the examination. Even at this stage, however, the examiner is not

let off the hook. The chief and senior examiners go to the examining board for an "office review", or post-mortem. They will scrutinise samples of scripts, taken at random, from each and every examiner. Should there be any cause for concern, a full set of examiners' marked papers will have been made available, to be examined in detail.

All the other examination components go through similar standardisation and checking procedures. By the end of the office review meeting, the chief examiner will tell the board that the exam has been marked in its entirety, to standard.

Regardless of the standard of performance, a fixed percentage of grades is never allocated. If students perform better than before, more will get higher grades.

Most checks and double checks will take place before the results are issued, but students may be comforted to know that their long wait for the results is being shared. Examiners also suffer from exam nerves.

The author is a senior officer of the Associated Examining Board.

GEORGE TURNBULL

Graduates who work out a solution

A year in industry is helping to solve employment problems

NEXT October, Elizabeth Jones, a final-year business administration student at Aberystwyth University, will join National Westminster Bank as a management trainee. She is one of the dwindling number of students to be offered permanent employment on leaving university. She ascribes her good fortune to the optional year-in-industry scheme run by Aberystwyth's careers service.

"Unlike traditional degree-related sandwich courses this initiative enables students to work in the industry of their choice," she says.

The scheme is helping to reduce Aberystwyth's high levels of graduate unemployment. The 70 or so students who decide to work between their second and third years have a head start in the jobs market.

Last summer, when Miss Jones worked at the bank, 14 per cent of her year group, which had just graduated,

upper-second-class honours degree. Only 42 per cent of non-participating students achieved that standard.

For many students, the scheme is an opportunity to travel. Marine biology research in Bermuda and conservation projects in Mauritius are among the more exotic placements on offer.

All participants earn between £5,000 and £12,000, making it easier for them to survive the final year than their poverty-stricken classmates.

Getting a placement provides interview and selection procedure practice. Former students who obtain work are encouraged to return to college to market the scheme to undergraduates.

Miss Jalloq is convinced that the scheme can be usefully introduced in other universities, and says that Hull has already followed suit.

IOLA SMITH

ALL THE DEGREE RESULTS

TODAY on page 8 *The Times* publishes degree results from Warwick and Dundee universities. During the next two months, the intention is to publish in full the results of all classes from all universities and former polytechnics, making it the most complete service of its kind.

